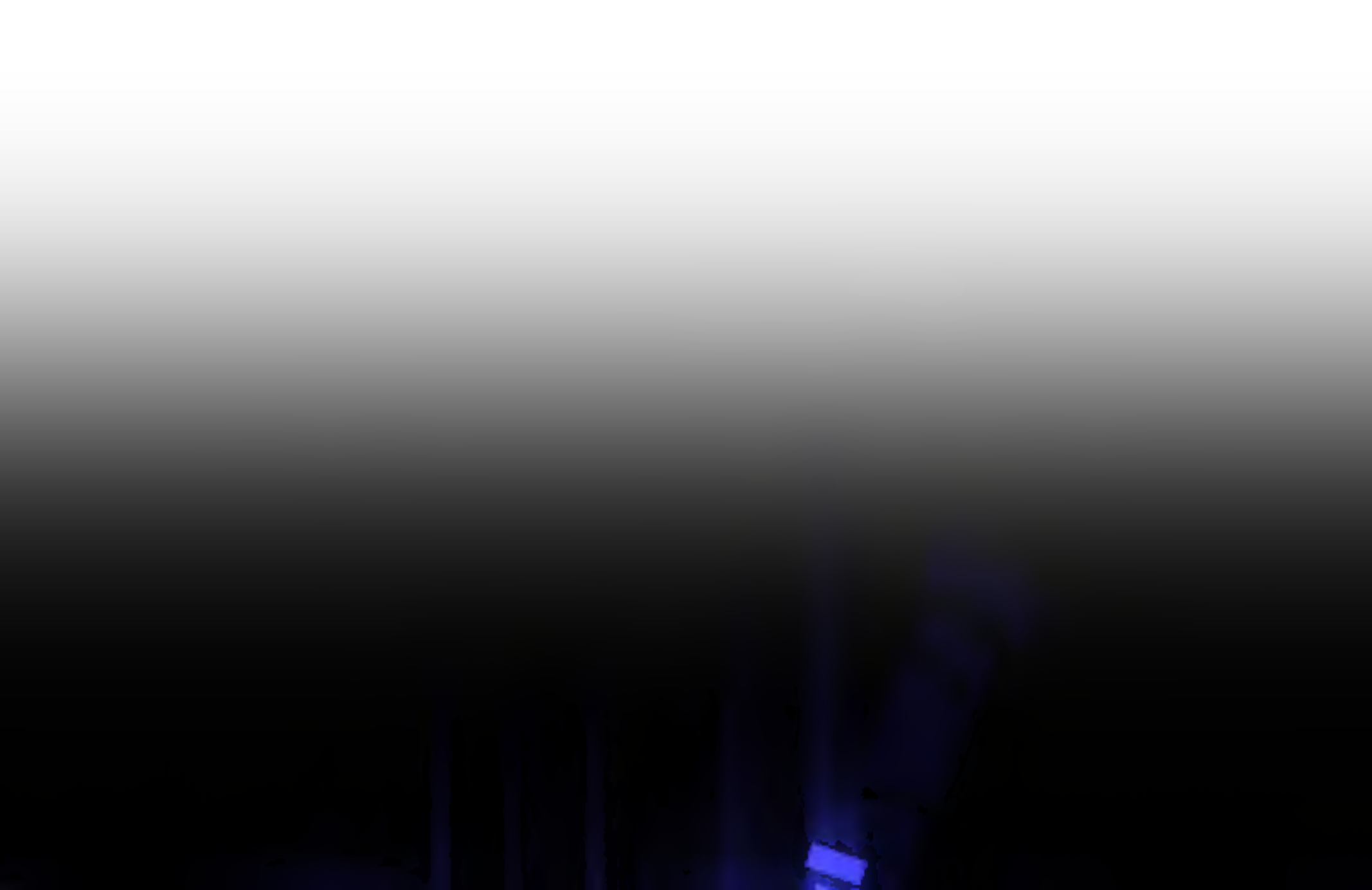
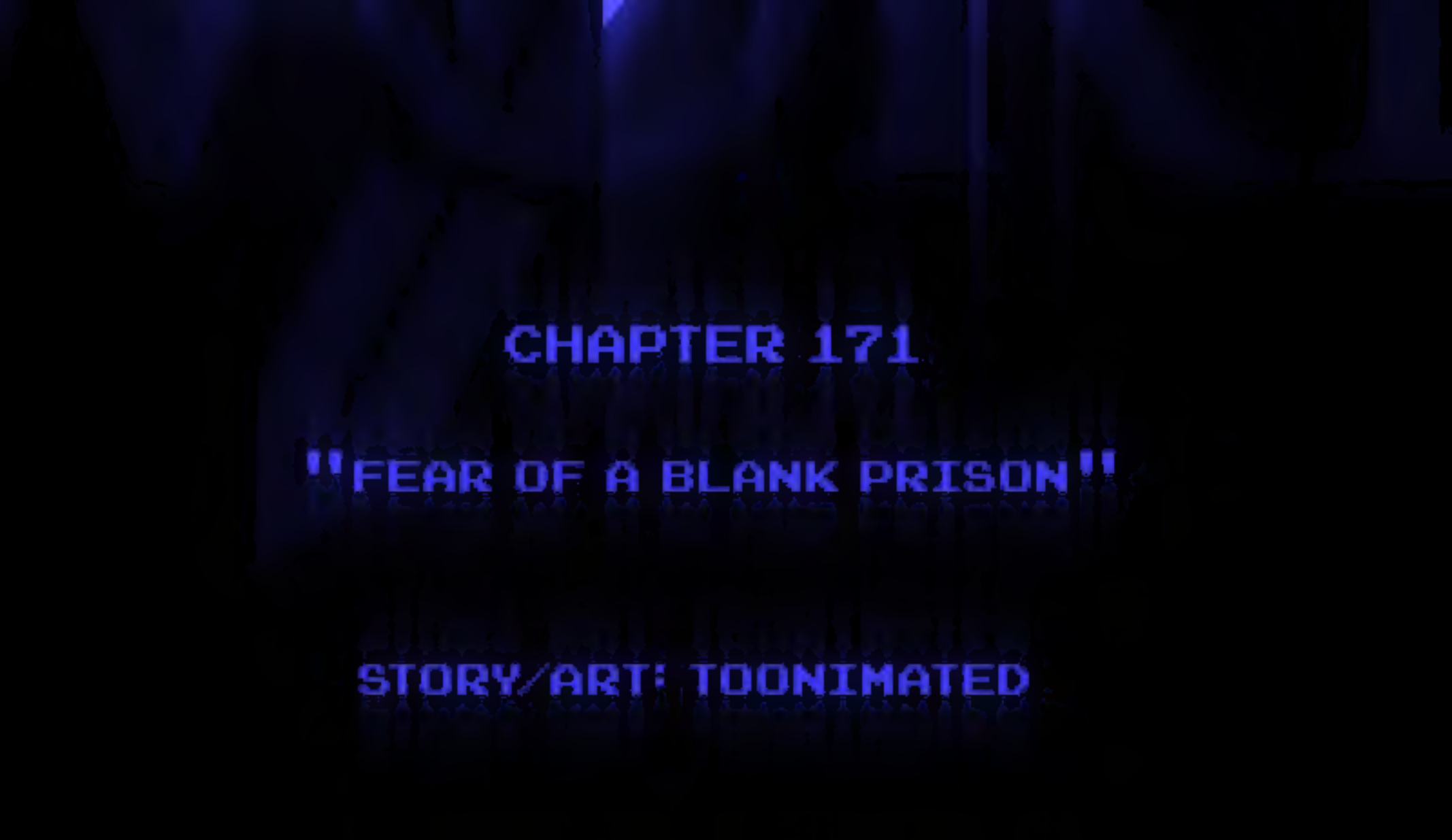
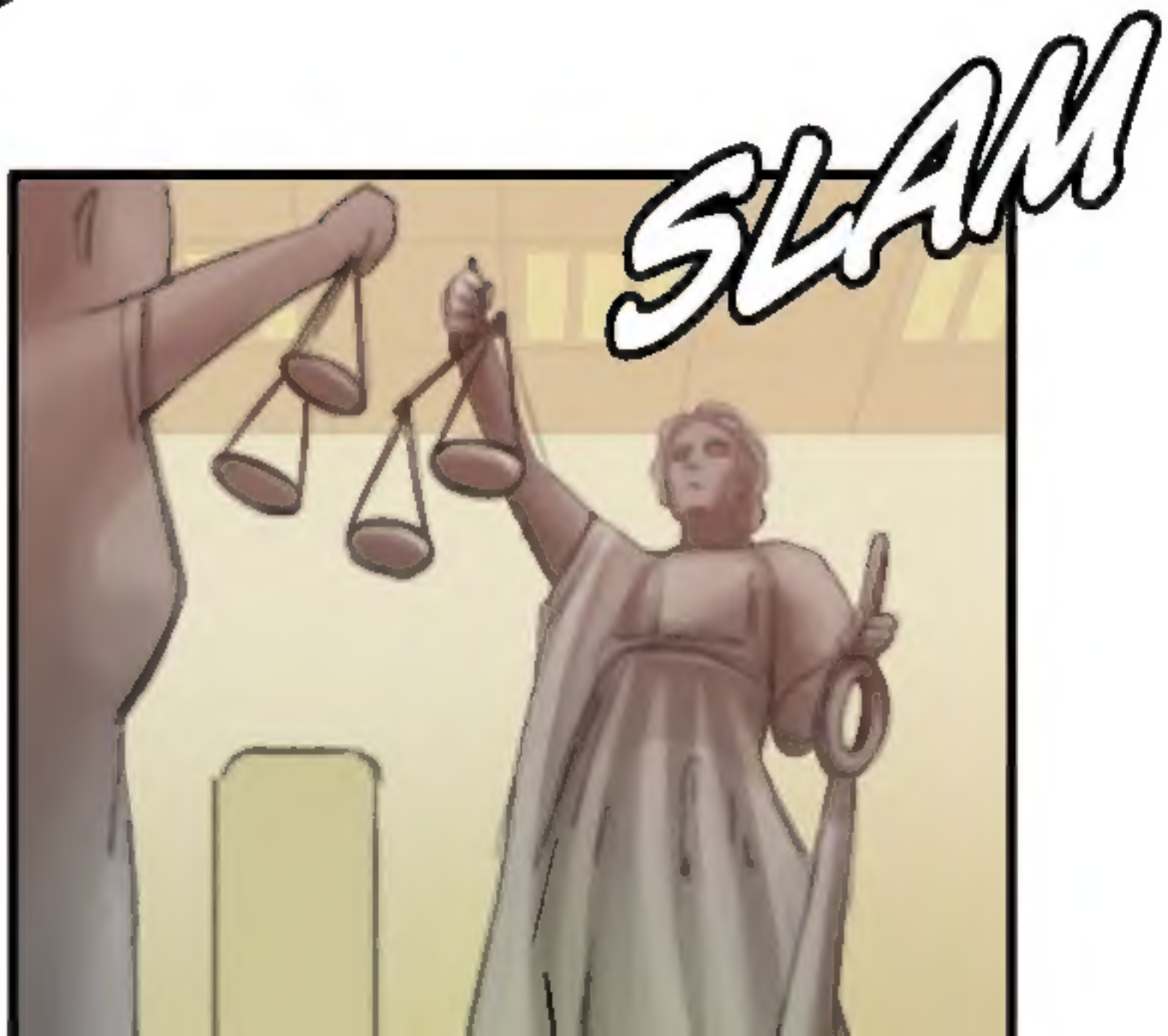
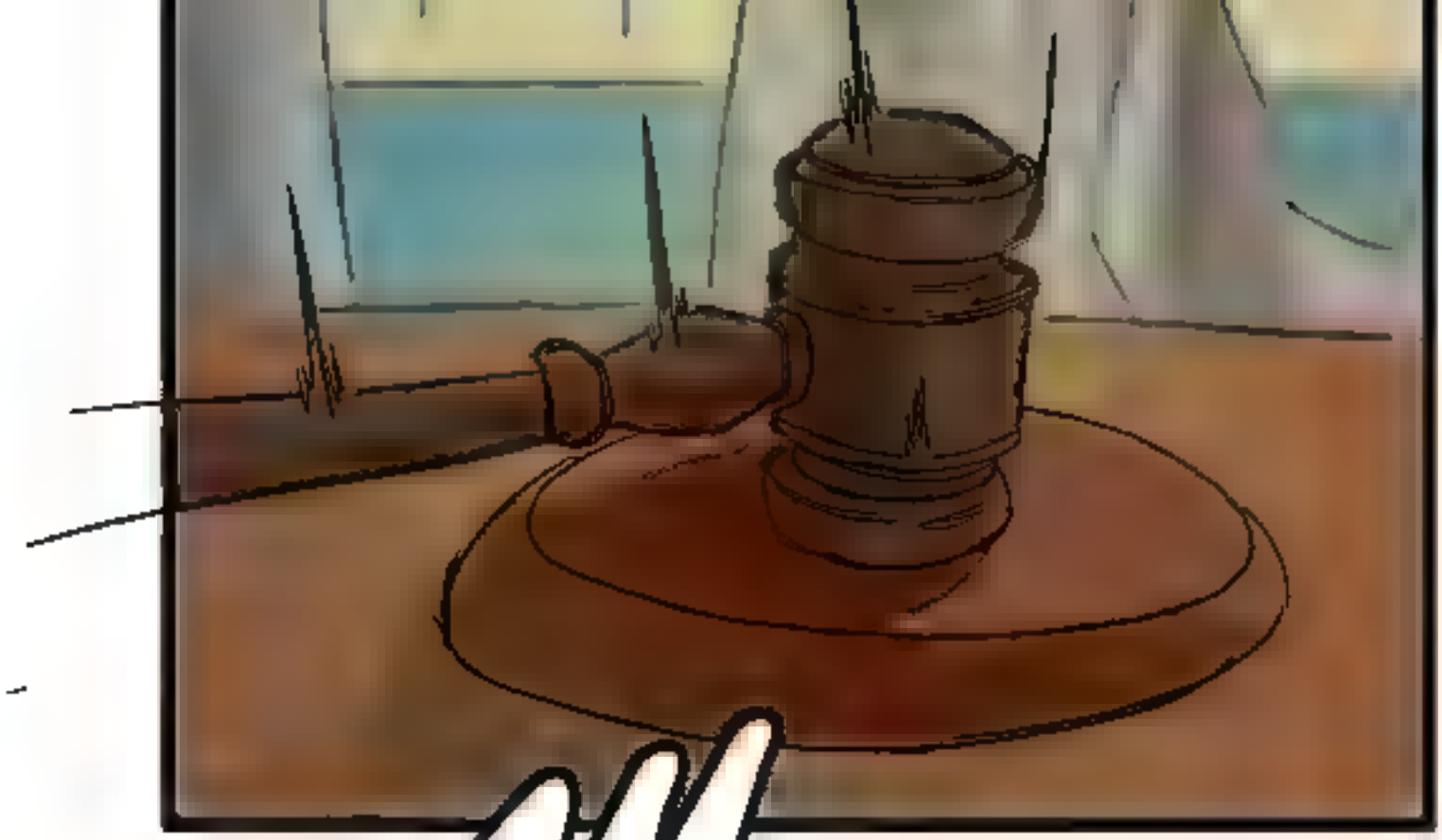



CHAPTER 171
"FEAR OF A BLANK PRISON"
STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

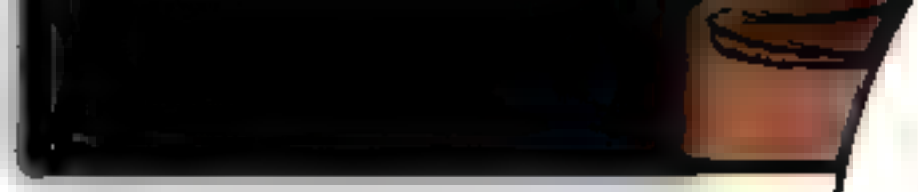
SLAM


SLAM


SLAM

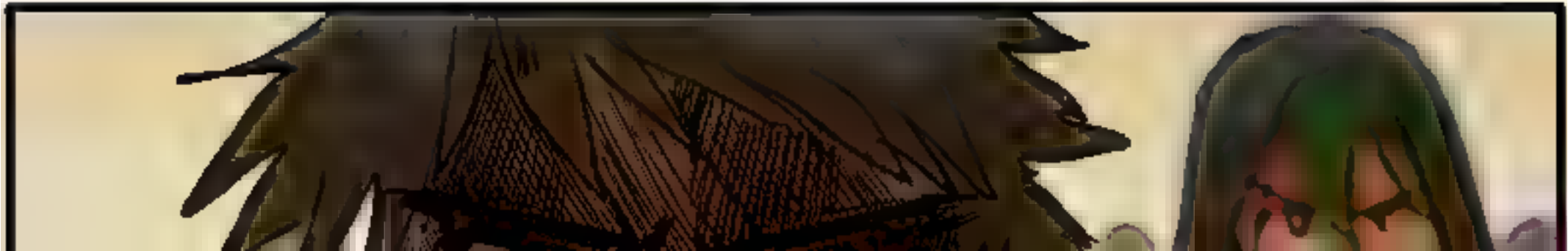
WILL THE DEFENDANT PLEASE RISE FOR SENTEN-CING?

WE THE

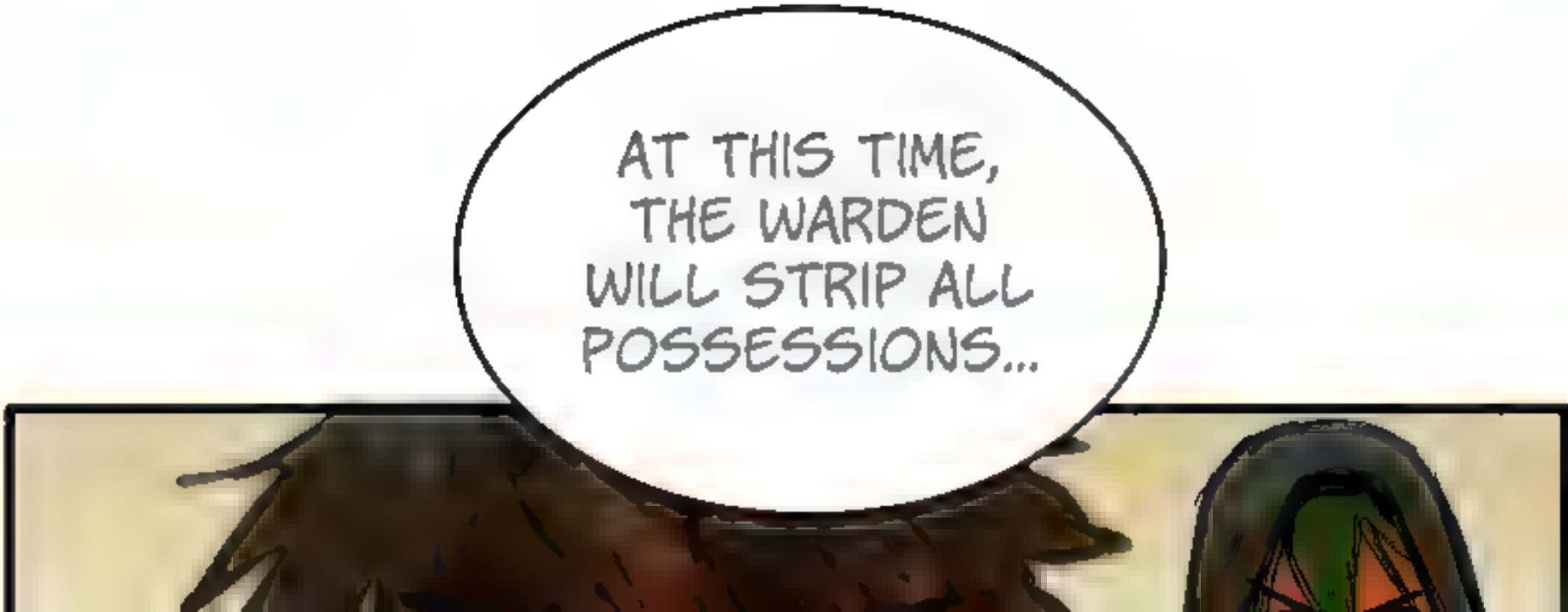


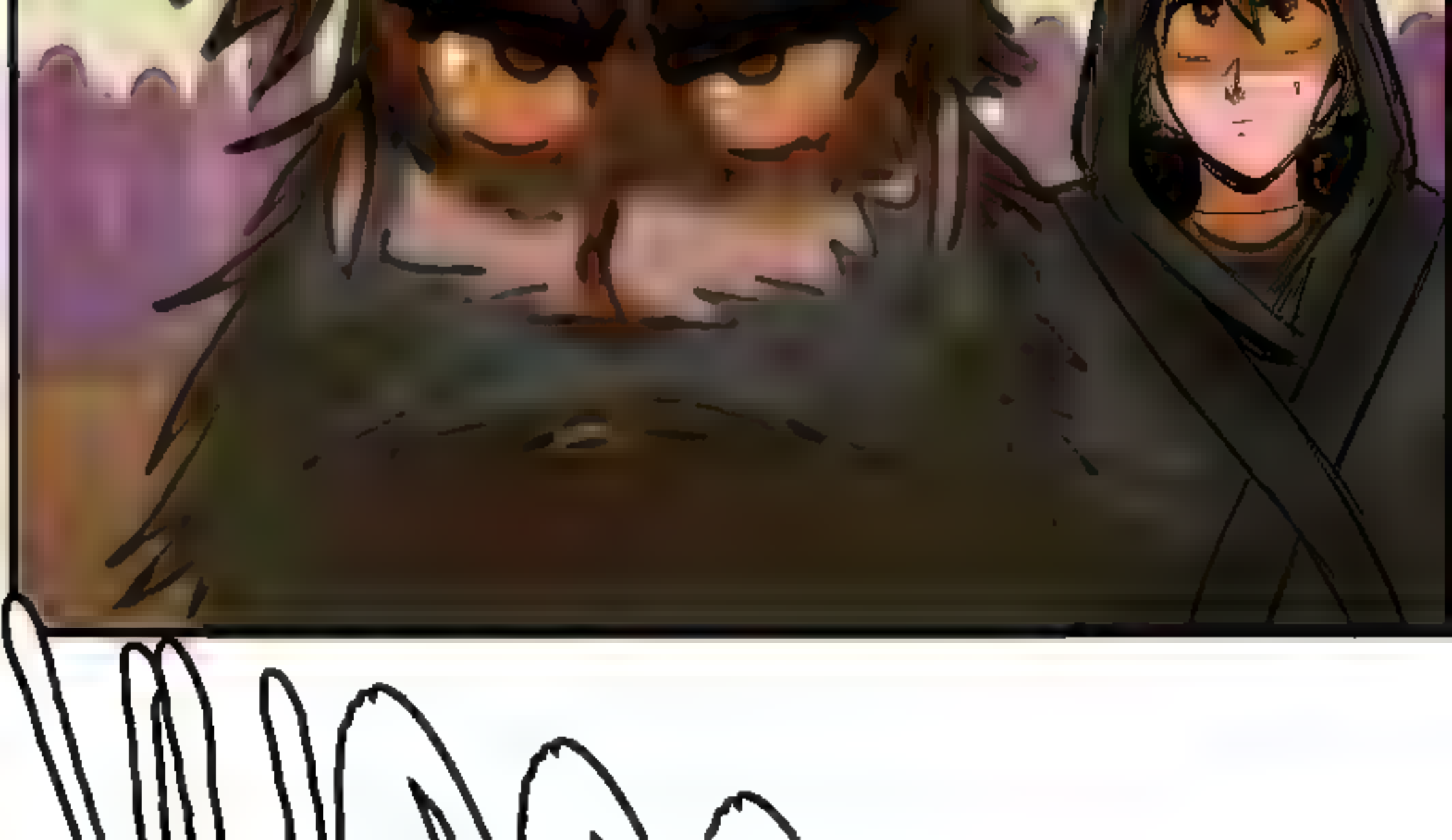
JURY SENTENCE
THE DEFENDANT,
DON SANTIAGO, THE
COCKROACH KING,
SAMPU CODE 3382
TO BE IMPRISONED

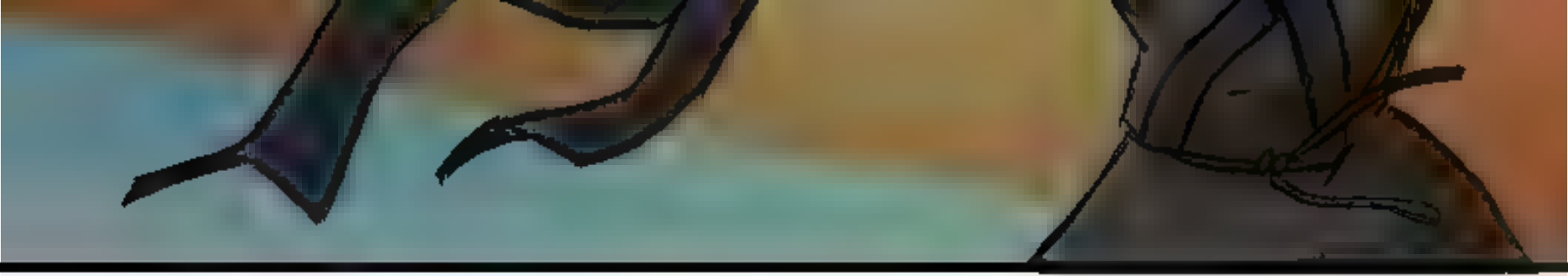
IN VIRTUAL SPACE
CONTAINER #104-

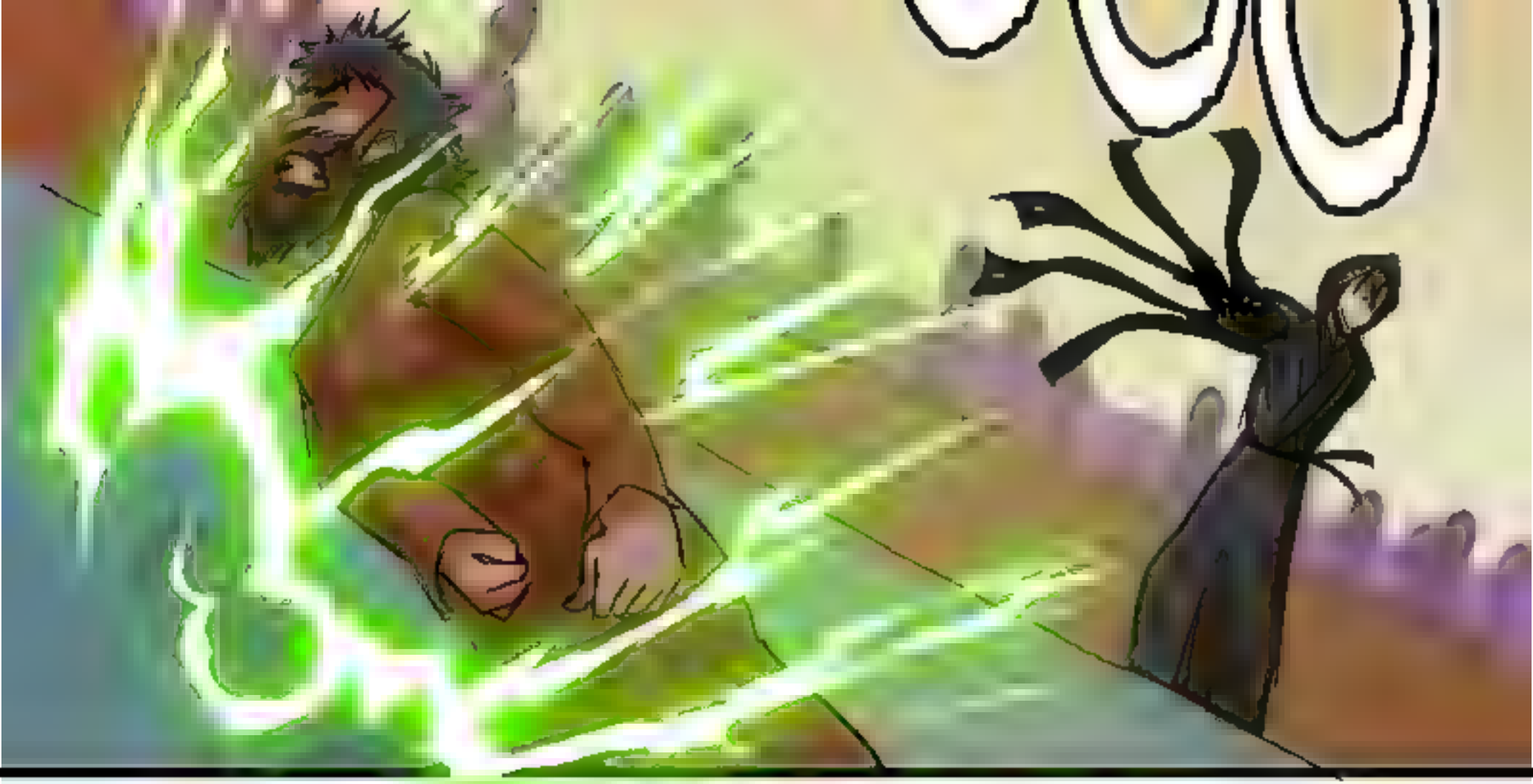


-FOR TREASON AGAINST THE VSC AND EXTREME ACTS OF REALITY MANIPULATION, NOT LIMITED TO BREAKING DOWN THE LAWS OF REALITY, REBUILDING IT IN HIS IMAGE, AND LETTING THE IMPOSS-IBLE BLEED INTO THE UNIVERSE.


AT THIS TIME, THE WARDEN WILL STRIP ALL POSSESSIONS...

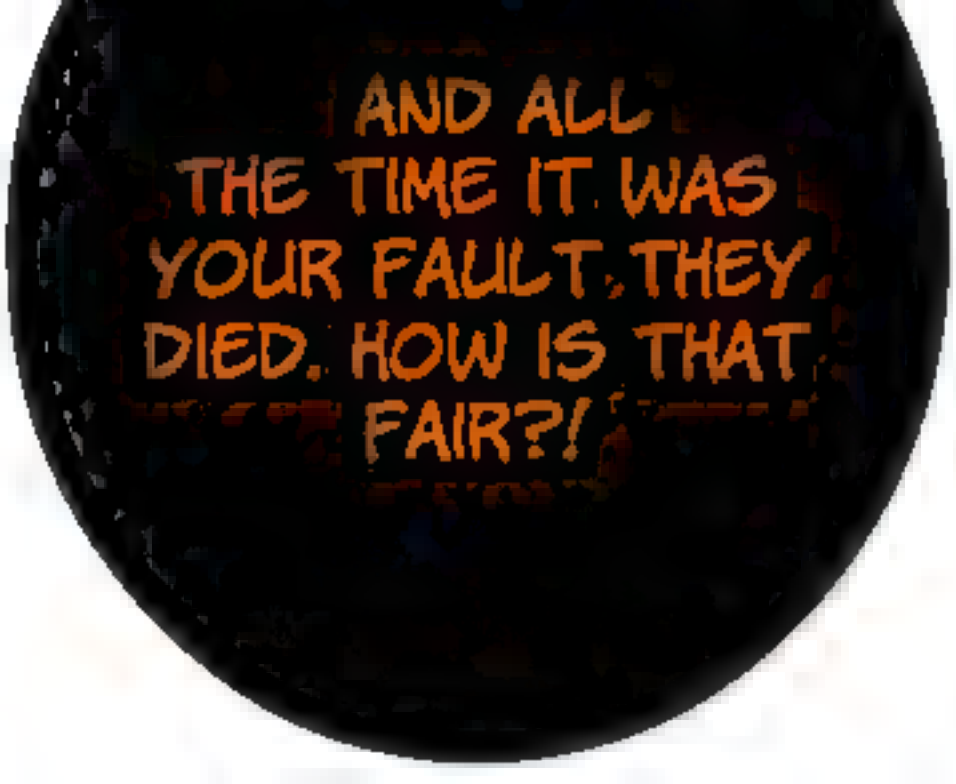






HYPOCRITES!
I DID EVERYTHING
YOU ASKED OF ME!
EVERY MISSION!
EVERY CONTAINMENT!
ALL TO GAIN THE

STRENGTH TO SAVE
MY FAMILY!

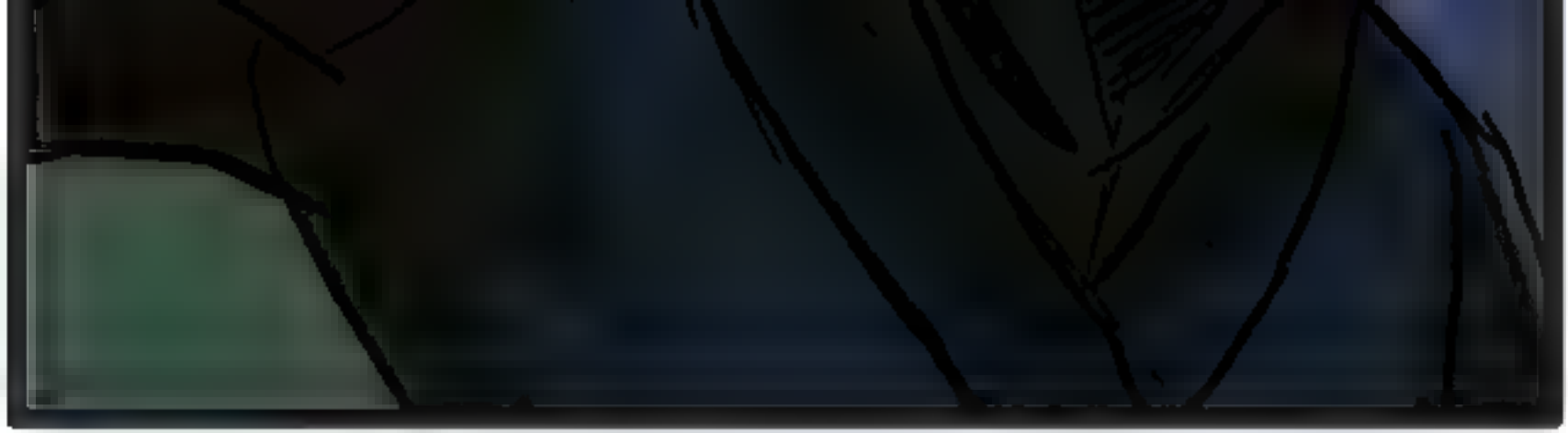

AND ALL THE TIME IT WAS YOUR FAULT. THEY DIED. HOW IS THAT FAIR?!

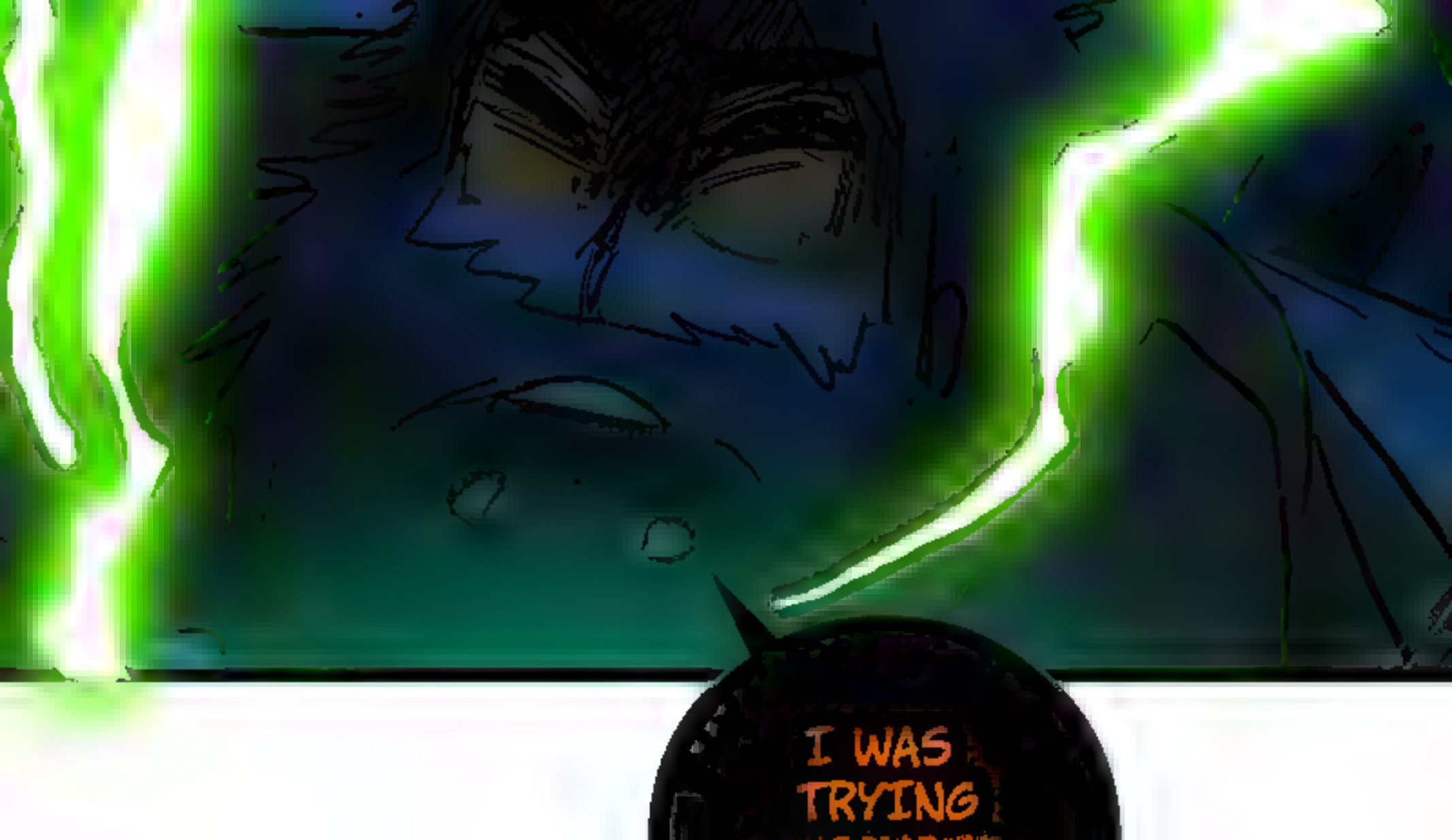
YOU ARE

SELFISH, BLINDED BY YOUR OWN OVERT SENSE OF WORTH.

AMELIA GAVE YOU A

CHANCE TO REFORM
AND YOU USED IT TO
TURN ON HER.

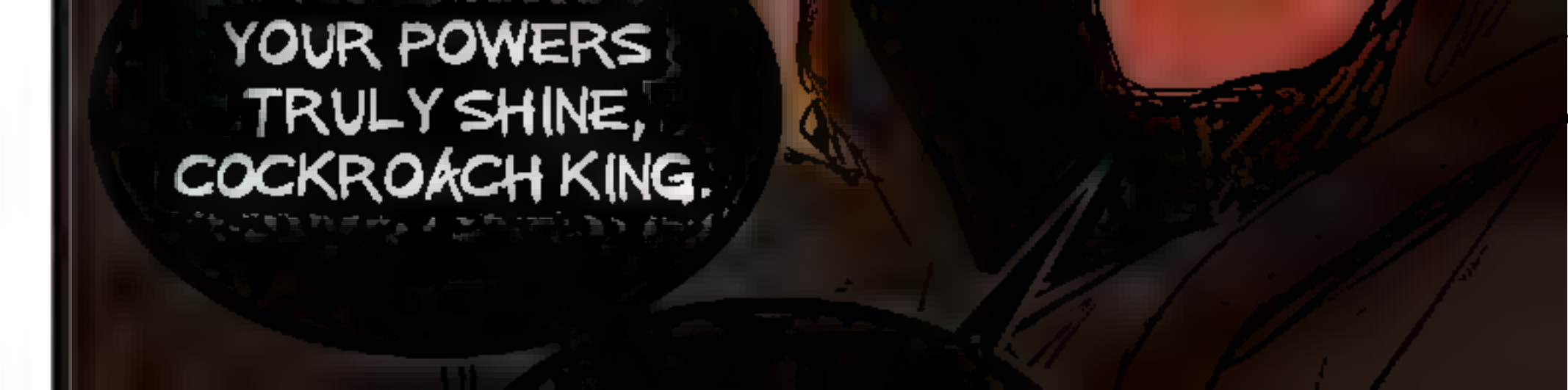


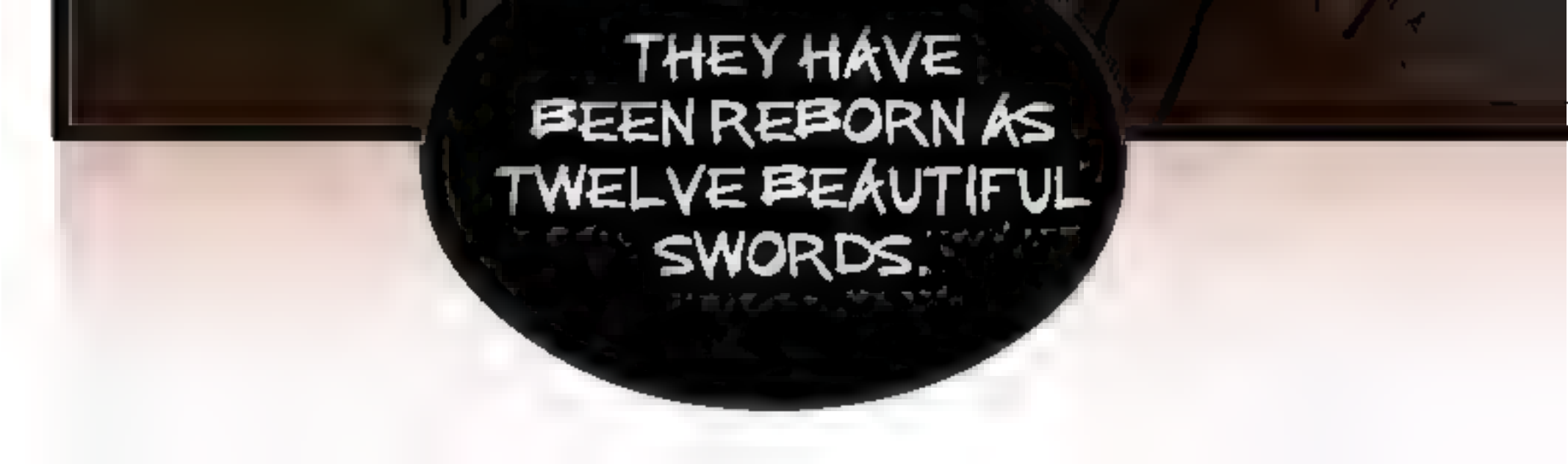

I WAS
TRYING

TO SAVE MY
FAMILY!

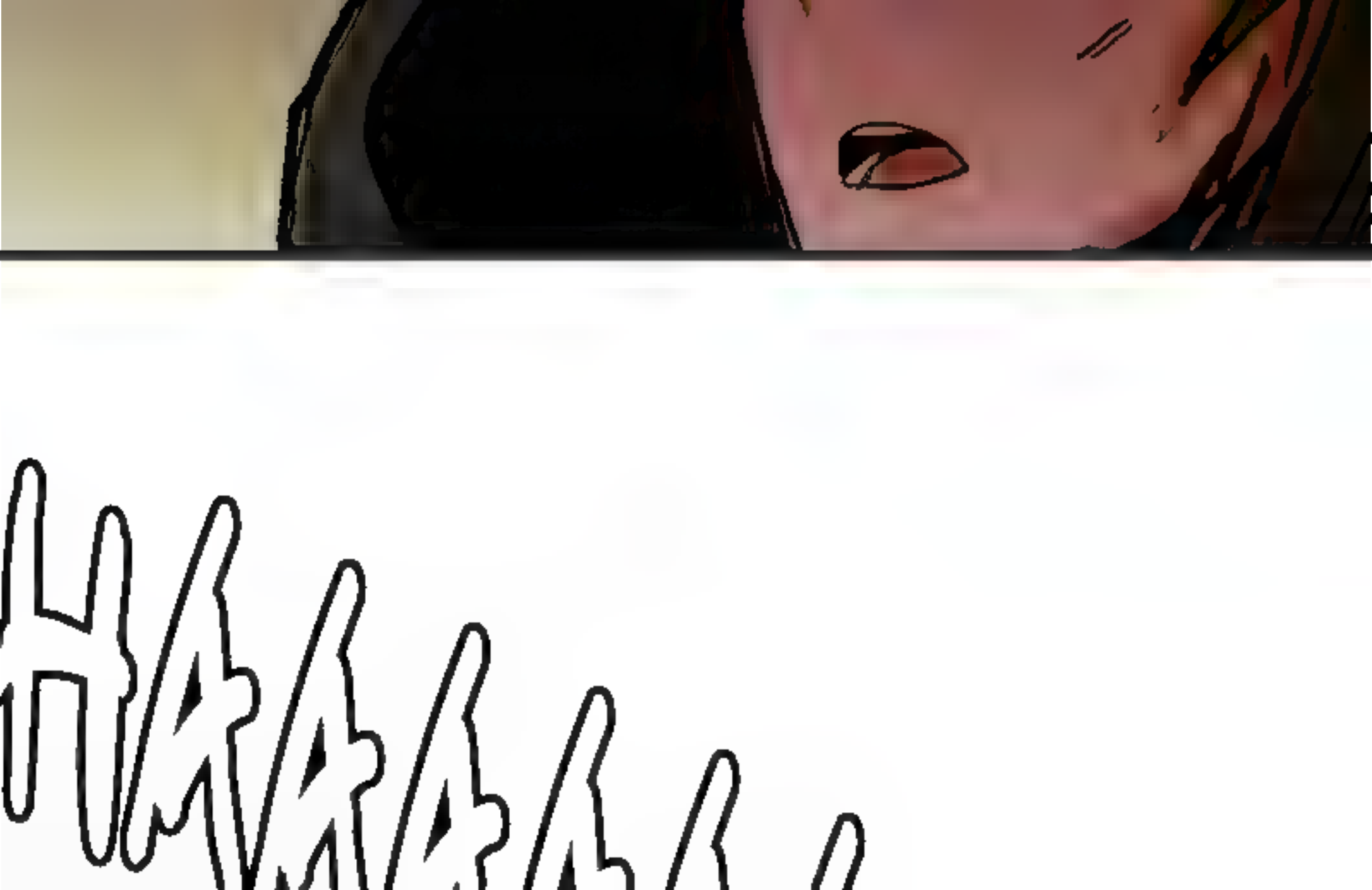
COMP!
COMP!

MY STRENGTH IS SAPPING, WHAT IS GOING ON?!


YOUR POWERS
TRULY SHINE,
COCKROACH KING.


THEY HAVE BEEN REBORN AS TWELVE BEAUTIFUL SWORDS.

THE PIECES FIT. WE'VE GOT ALL WE NEED.



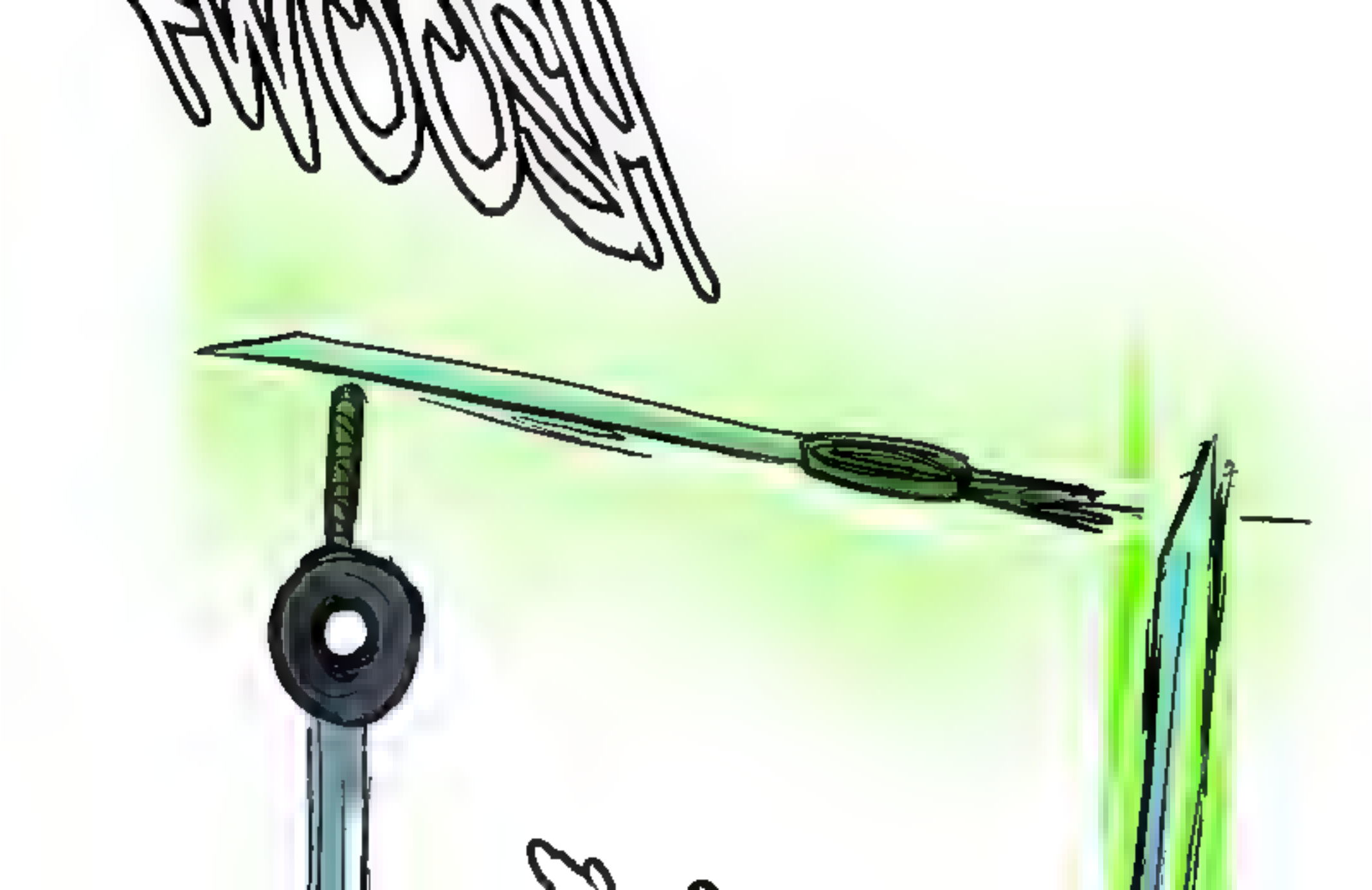
Whoosh!!!!

THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR WORLD... YOUR PRISON... BEGINS.

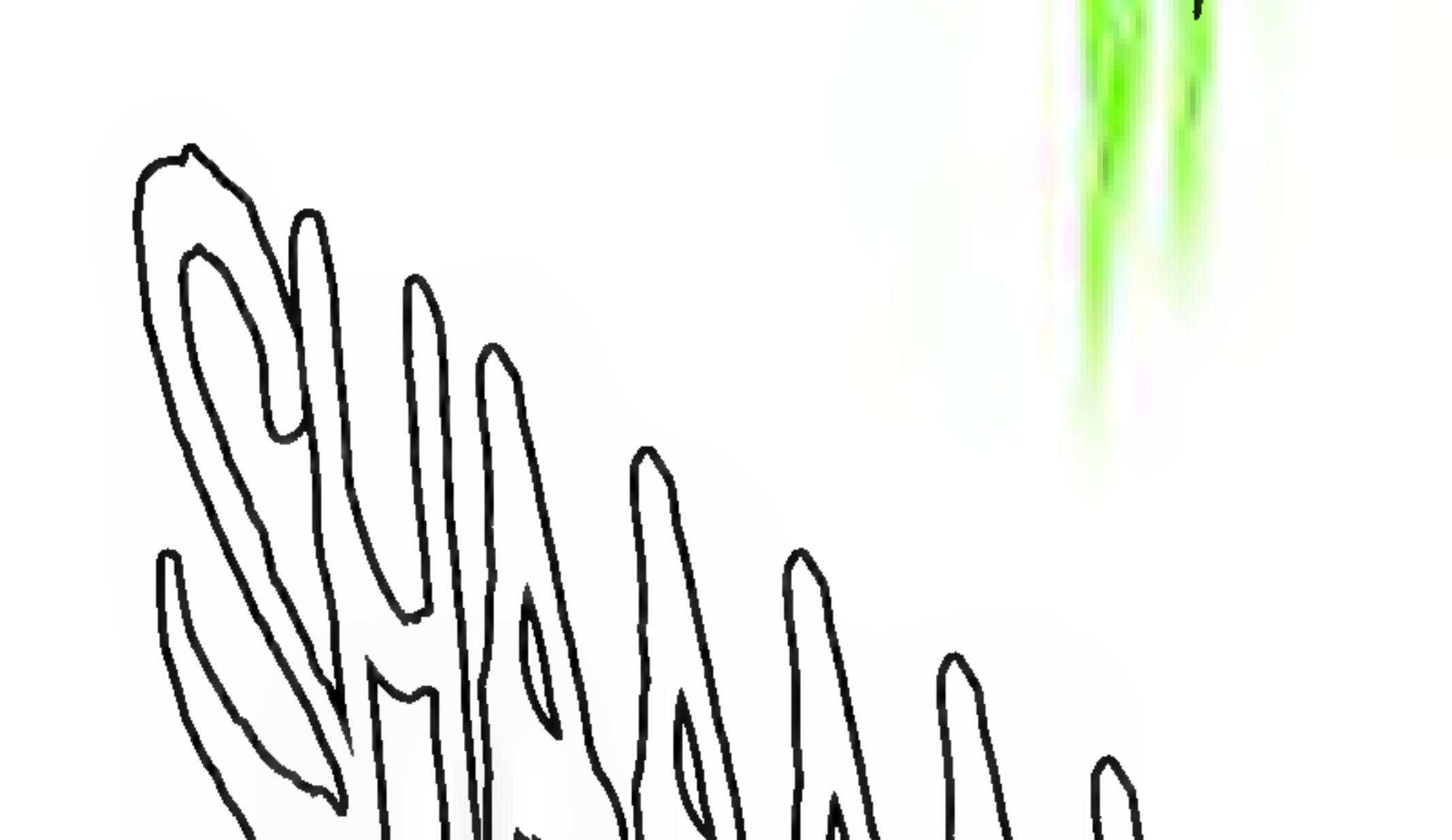
SWOOSH

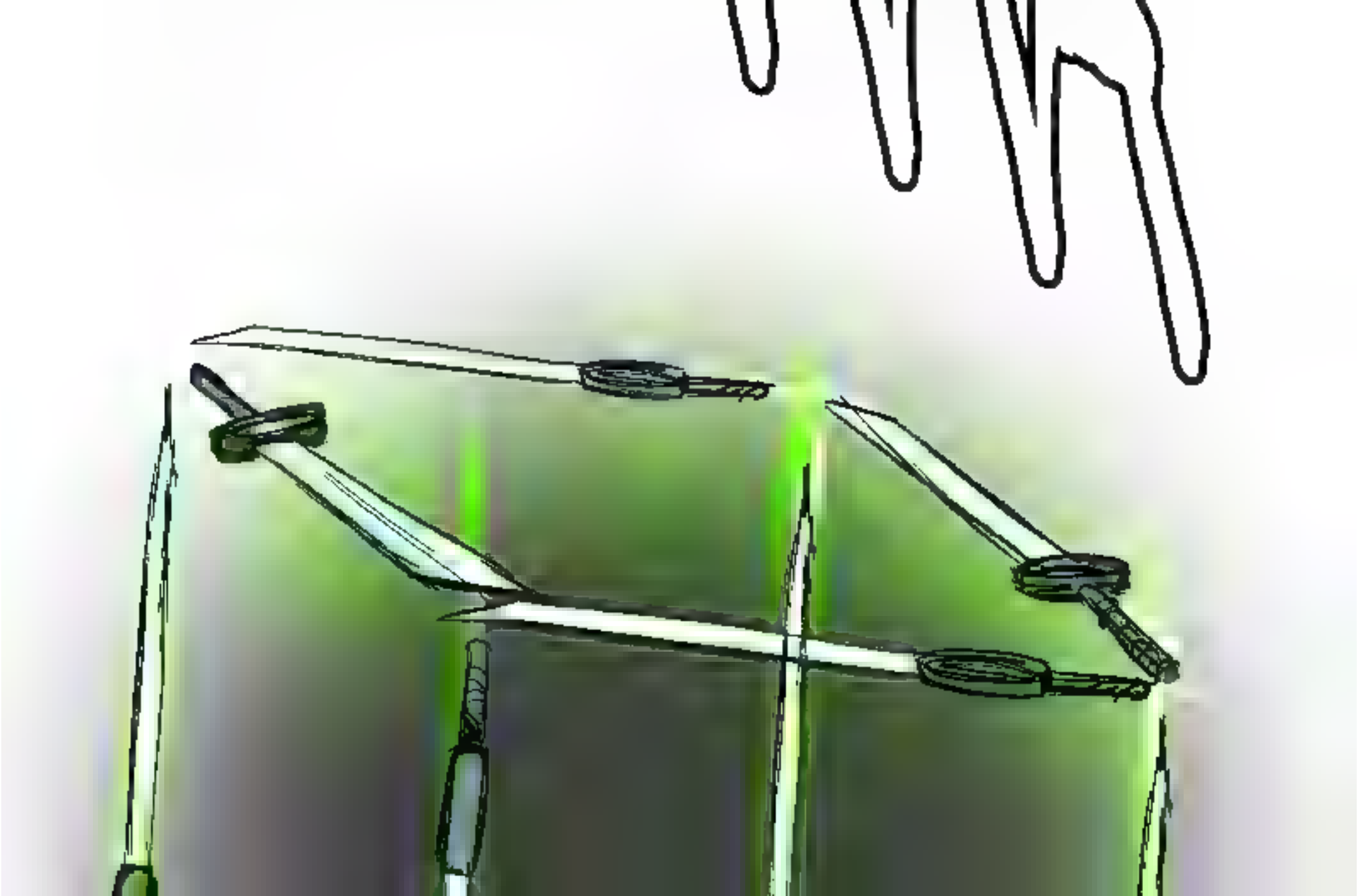
BEAM
BY BEAM..

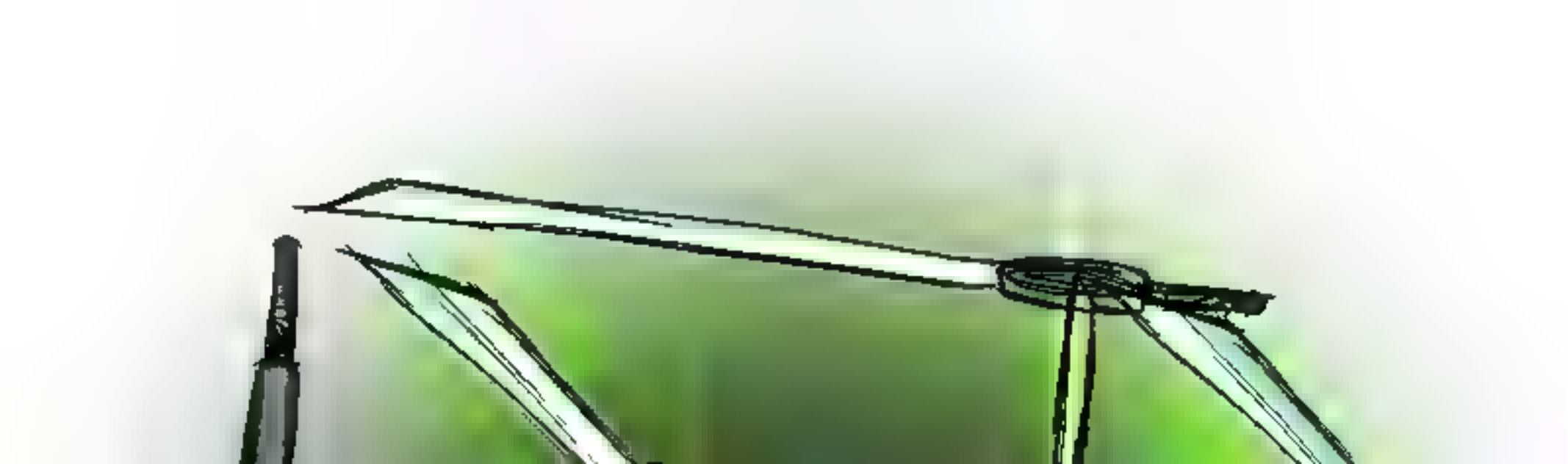
STILL,
STEP
AND LINTEL.

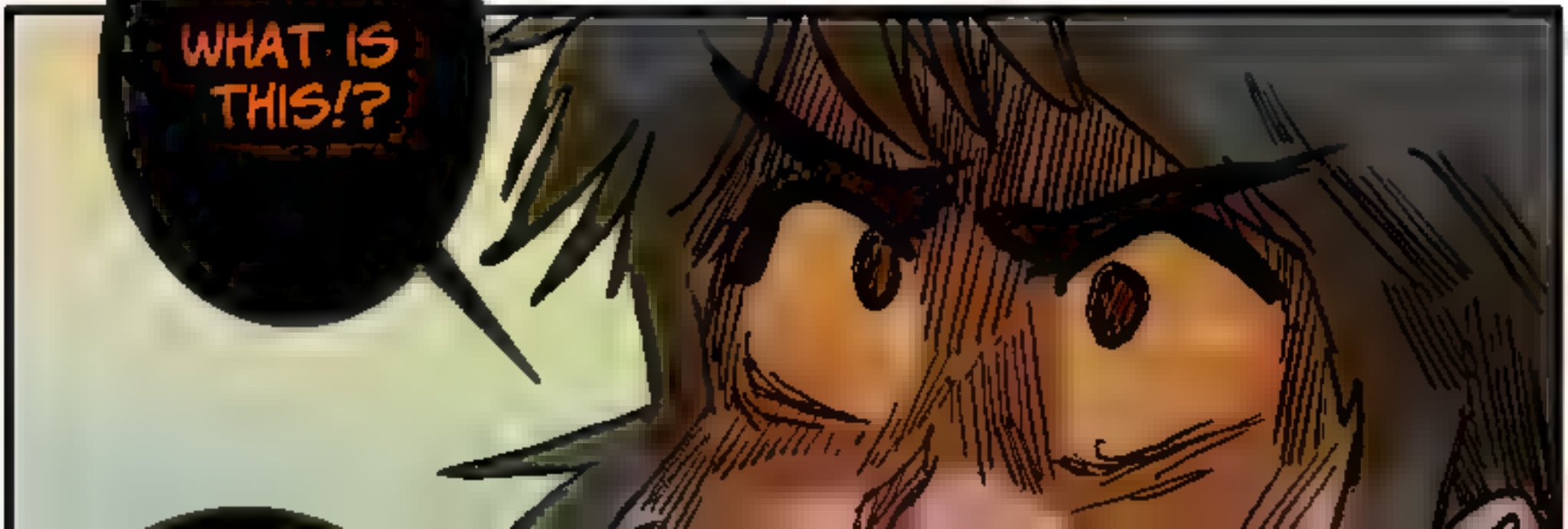


SWORD





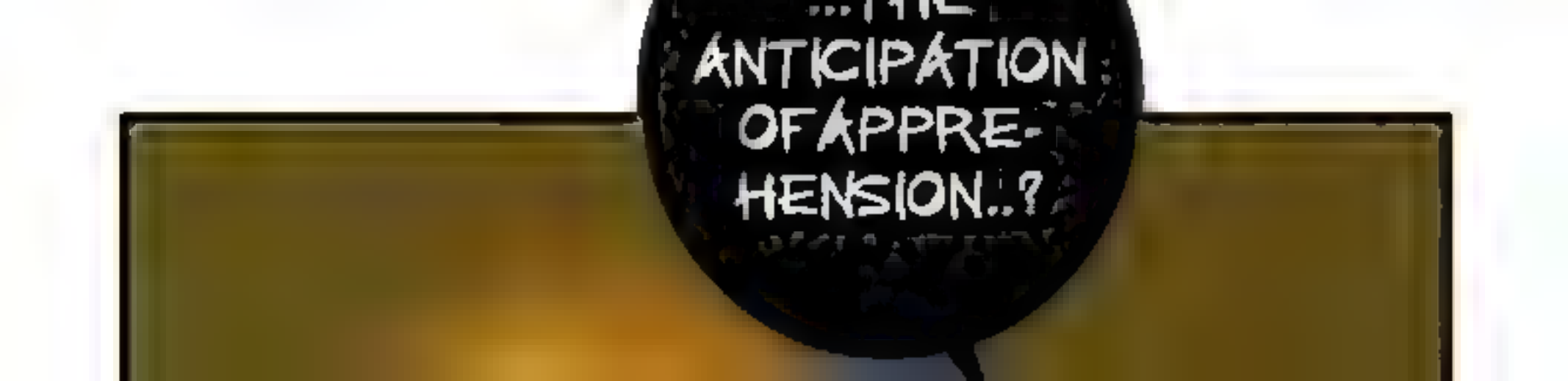



WHAT IS THIS!?

MY STRANGE ENEMY IS CONSTRUCT-ING SOME SORT OF BOX...

HA HAHA... CAN'T YOU TELL?

YOU MUST AT LEAST FEEL IT...


...THE ANTICIPATION OF APPRE-HENSION..?

...THE FEAR..?

WAIT..!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!

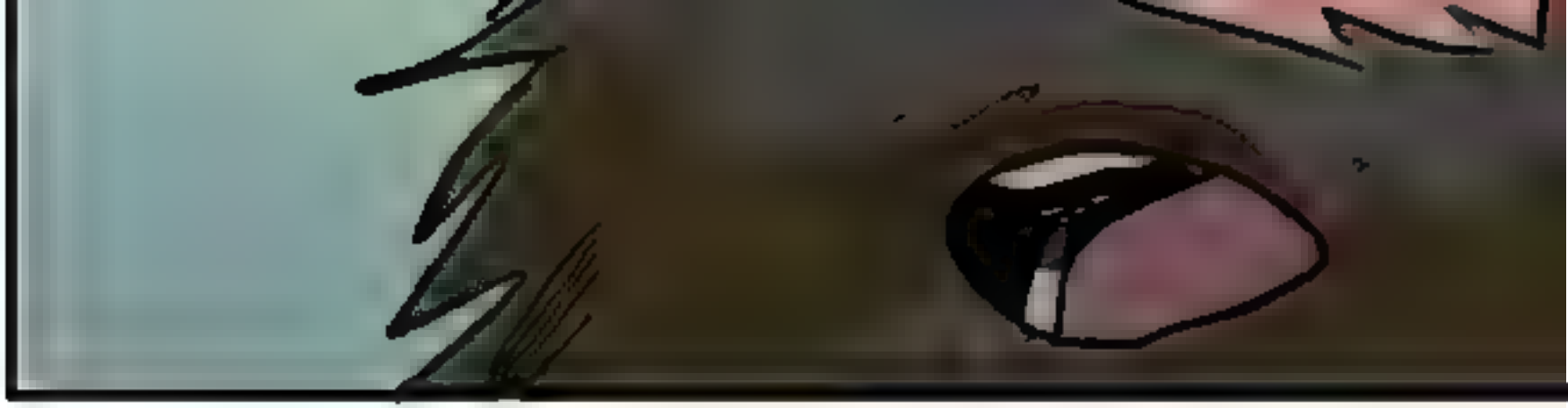
I DO.

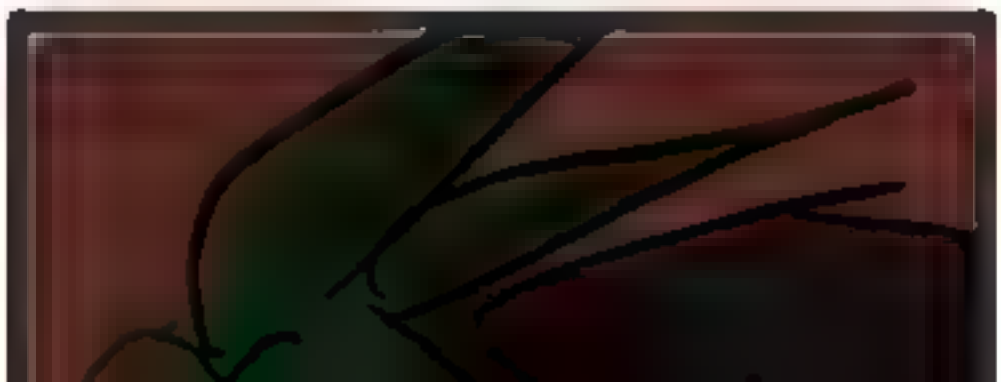
THIS WORLD IS UNINHABITABLE

FOR ME AND
MY KIND.
FWOOOSH

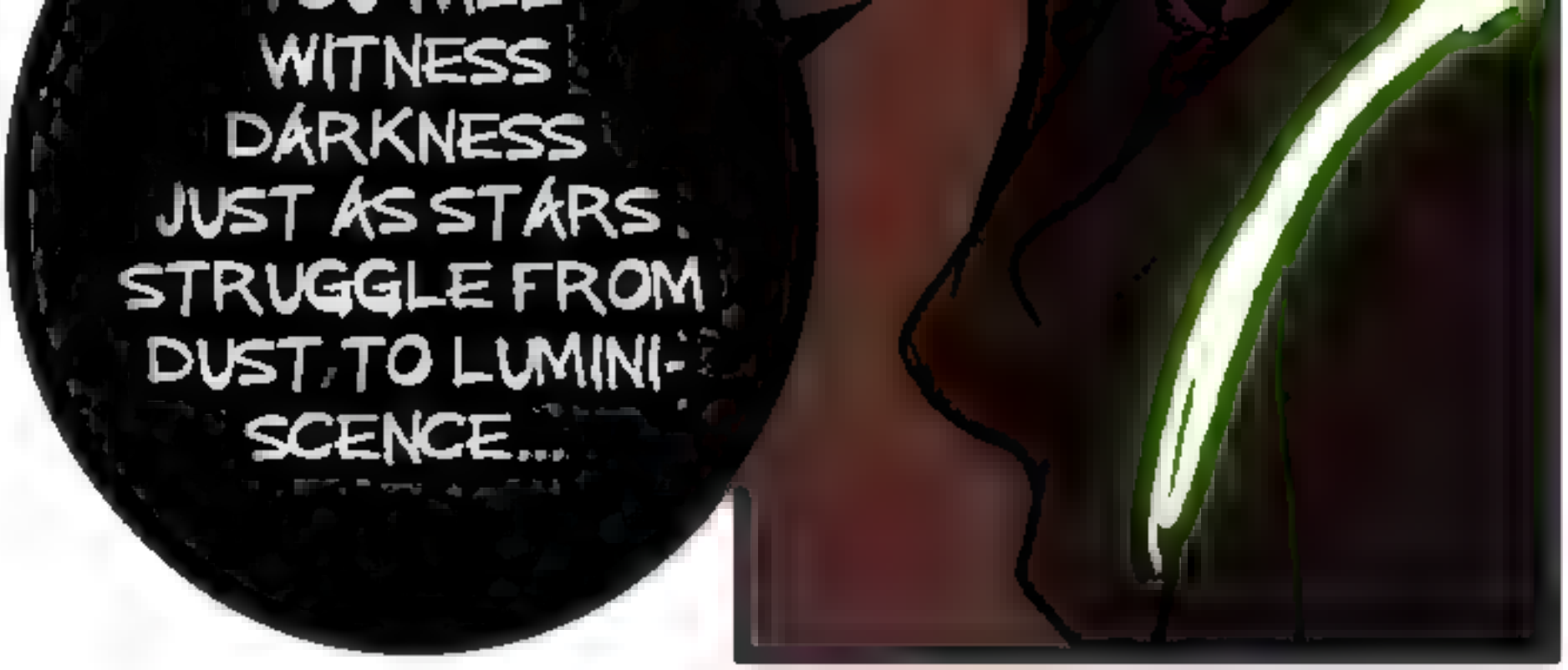
I MUST RETURN TO MY OWN WORLD...
MY POWERS WILL SUFFICE IT'S COMPLETION.

YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTAIN ME WITH THIS OBJECT OF YOURS?





THIS IS NO ORDINARY OBJECT...
...IN IT, YOU WIL


WITNESS
DARKNESS
JUST AS STARS
STRUGGLE FROM
DUST TO LUMINI-
SCENCE...

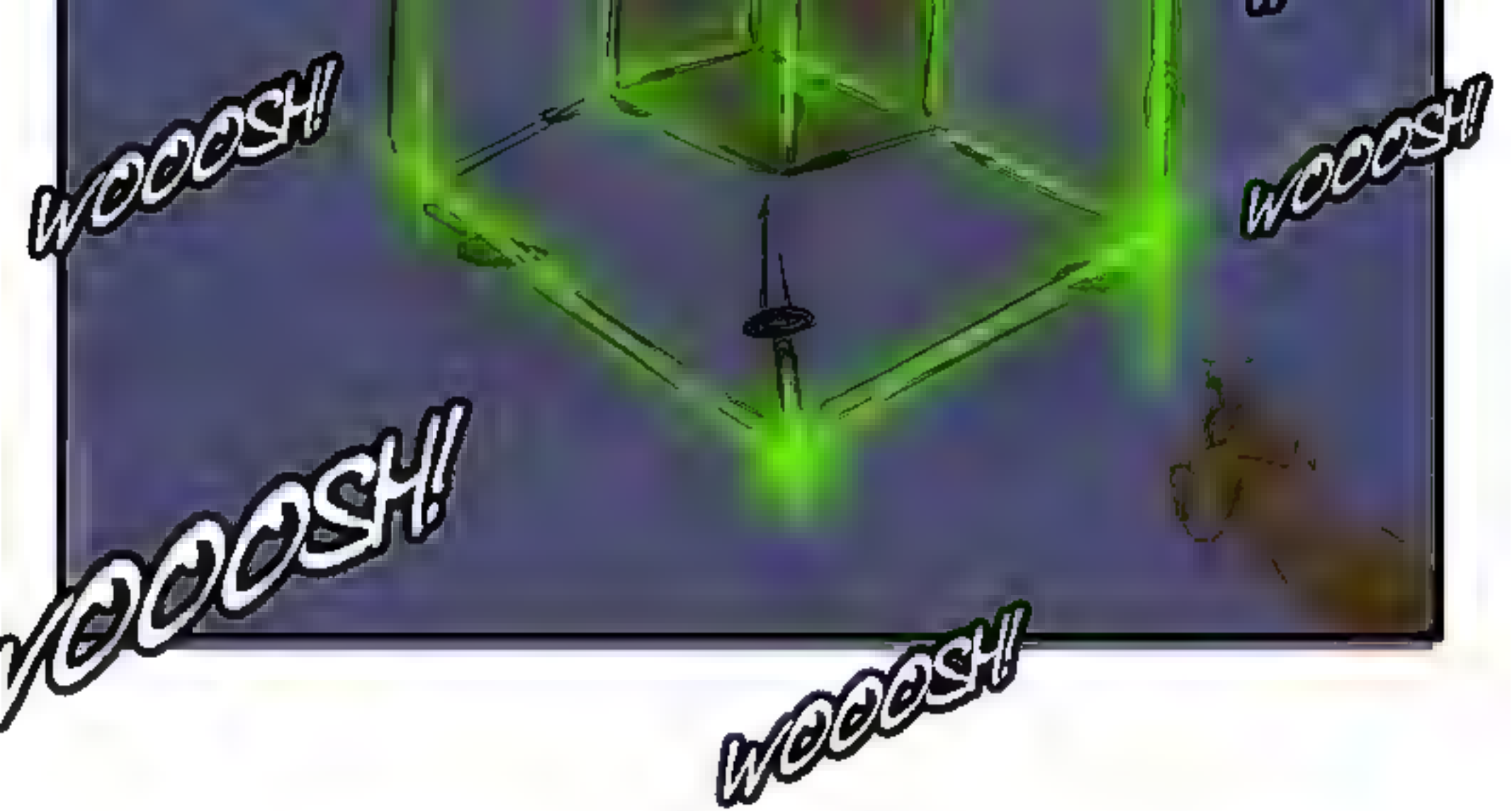
YOU
WILL SHINE
BY CONSUMING

YOURSELF.
YOU WILL AGE AND DIE AND BE BORN FROM YOURSELF.

NO BEGINNING.
NO END.

WOOOSH!
WOOOSH!
WOOOSH!
WOOOSH!

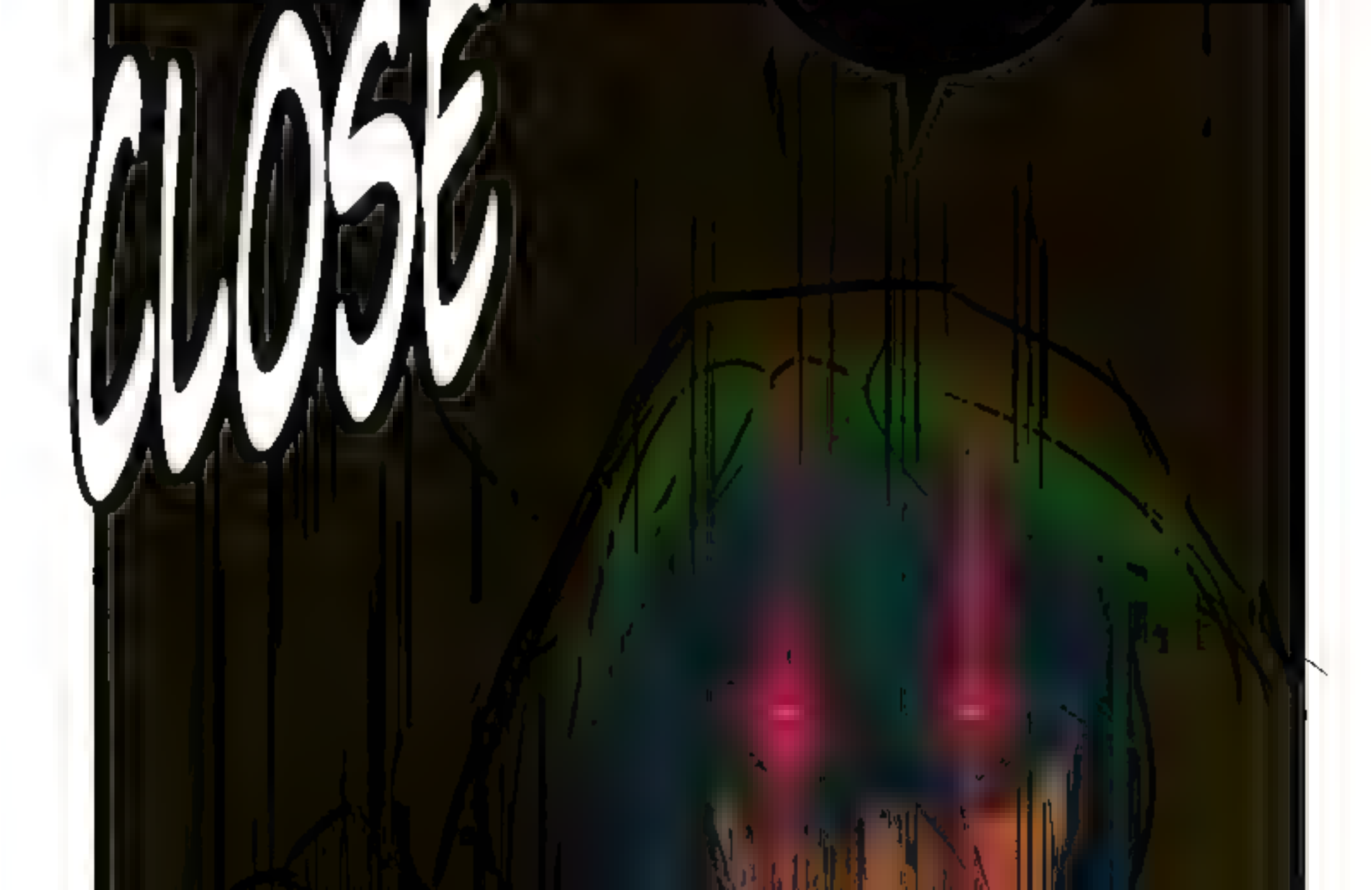
WOOOSH!


WOOOSH!
WOOOSH!
WOOOSH!
WOOOSH!

WITNESS
THE SPECTACULAR

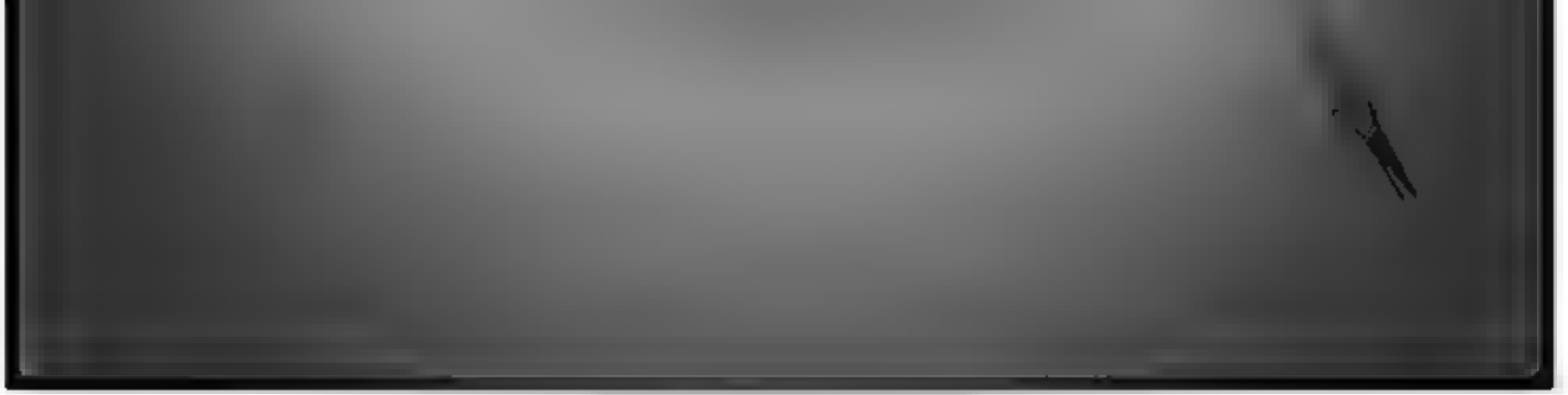
CREATION OF YOUR NEW REALITY...

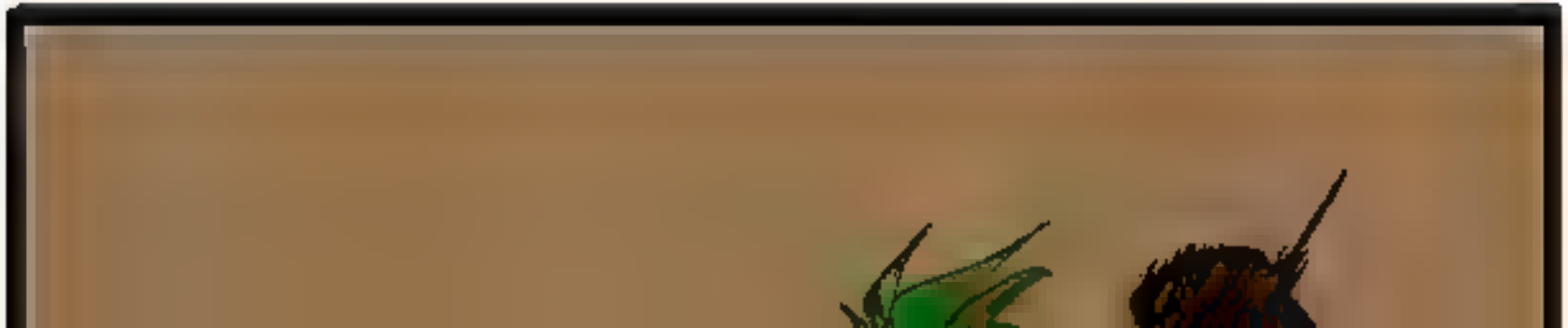
I CALL IT...


CLOSE

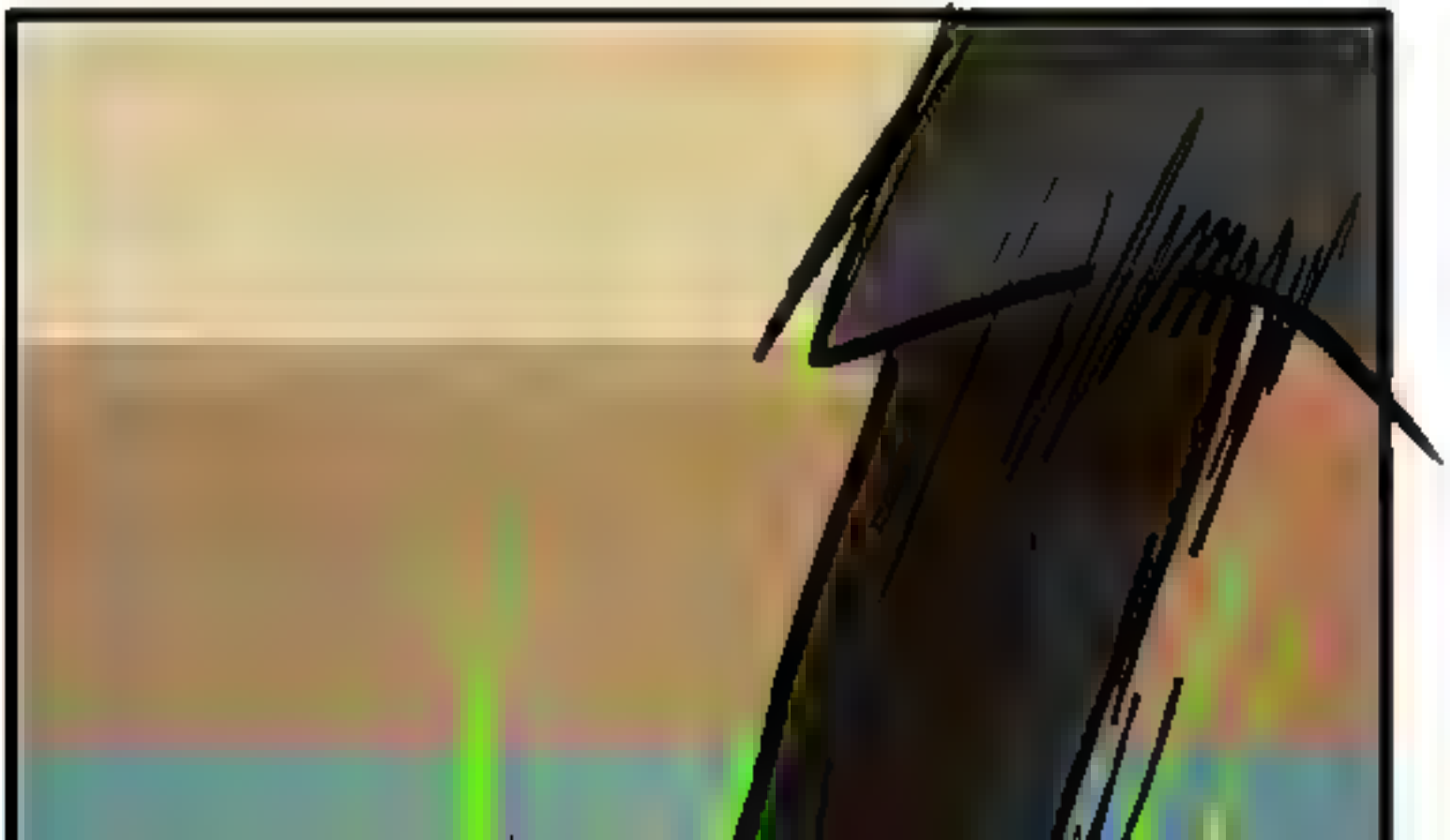
THE ROOM OF SWORDS!

Sirius



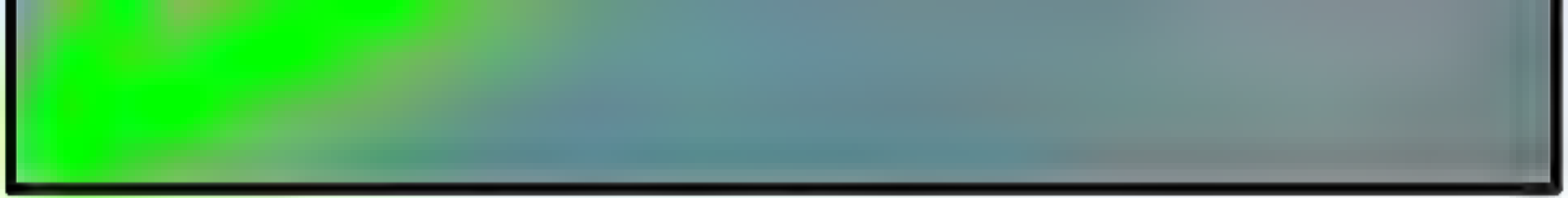


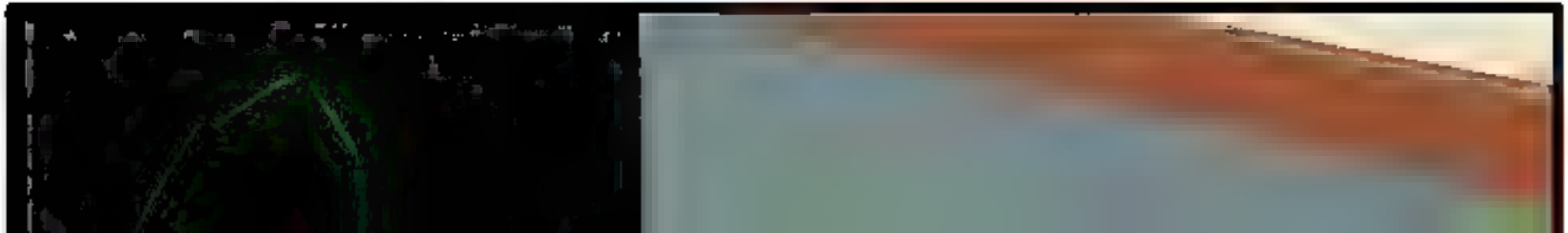
OPEN!



CRACK!!!

20MF
20MF
20MF!





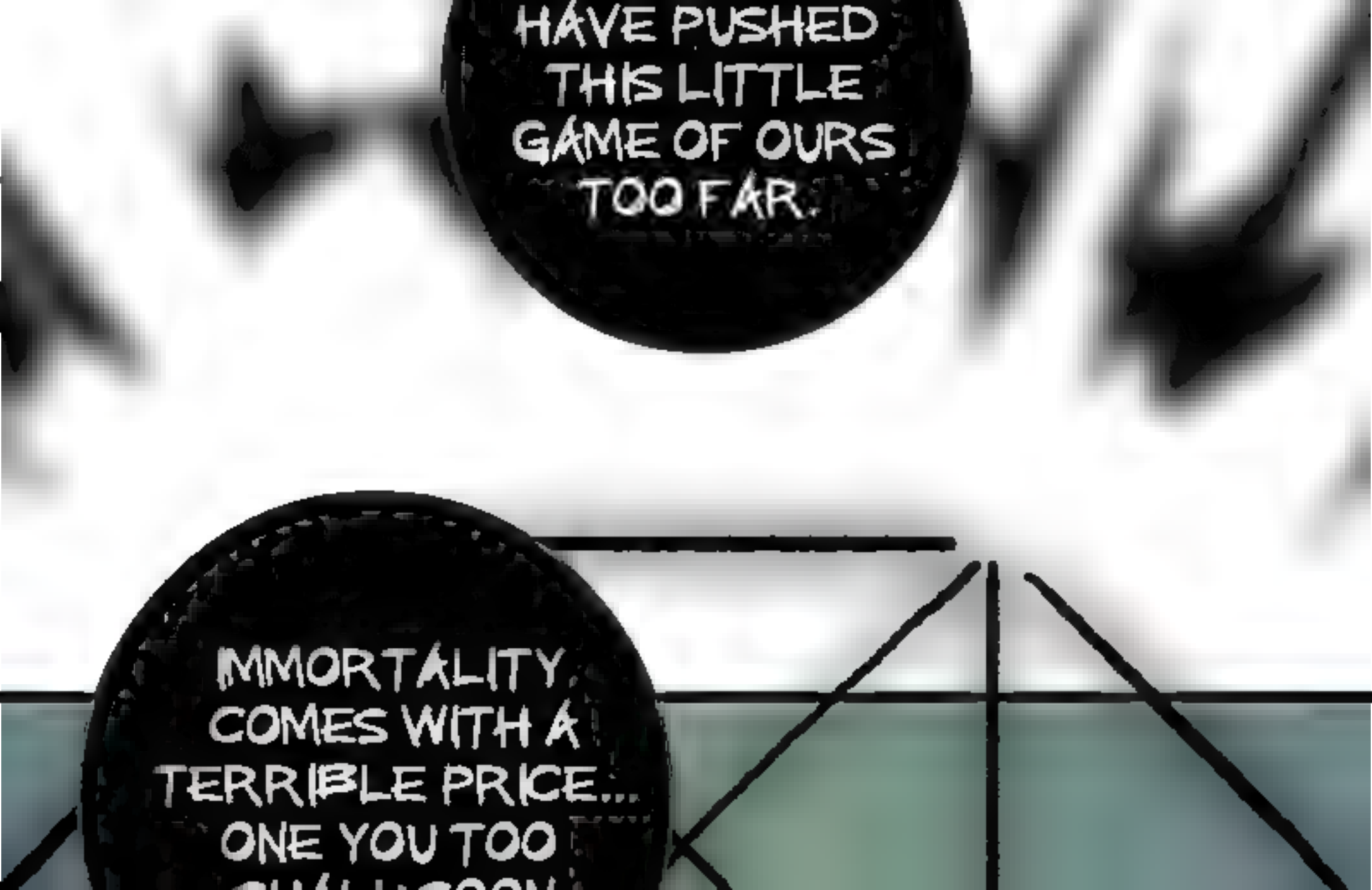
MMMMMM

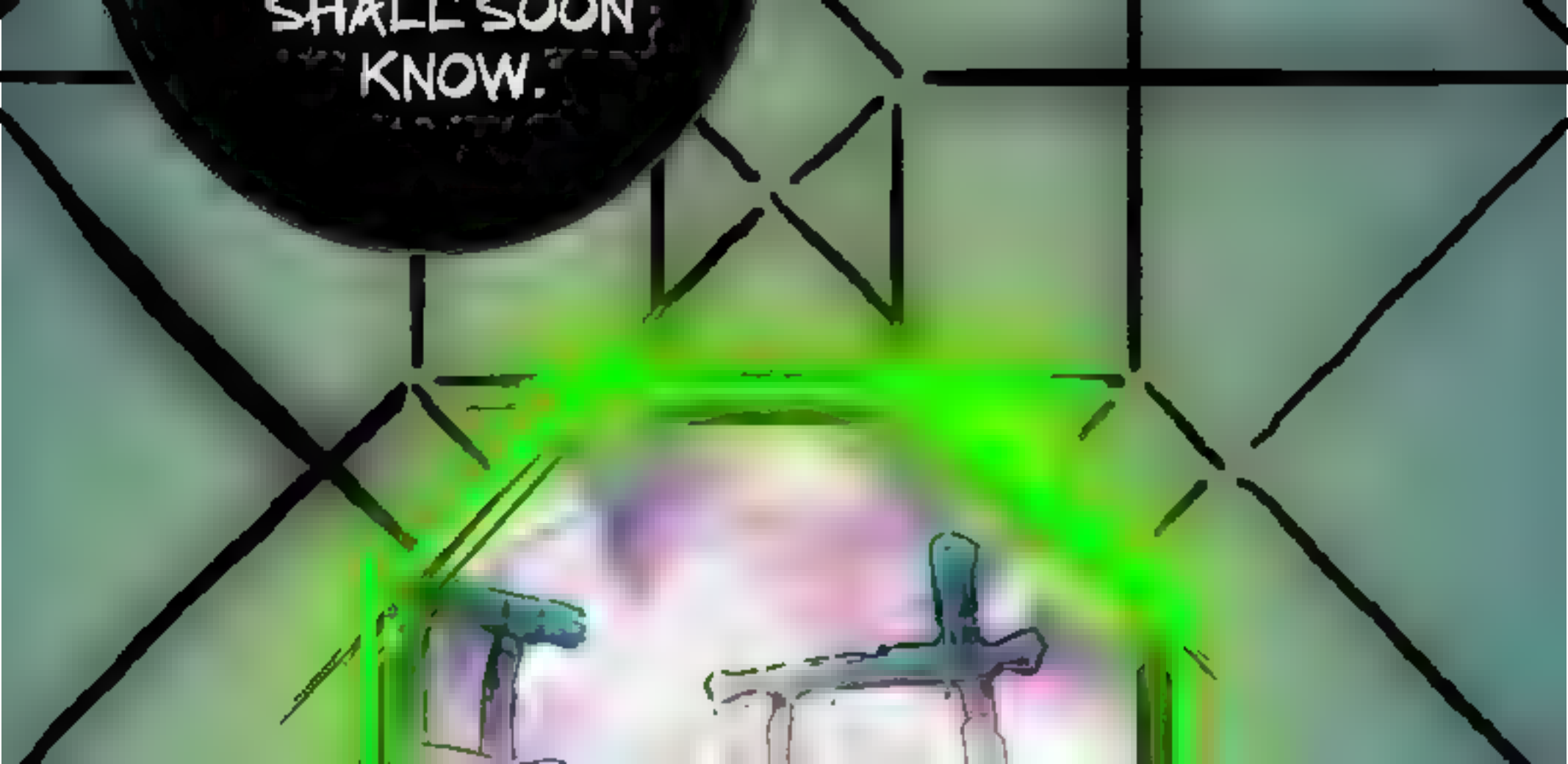
YOURSELF BE DRAGGED TO IT'S MAGNIFI-CENCE!

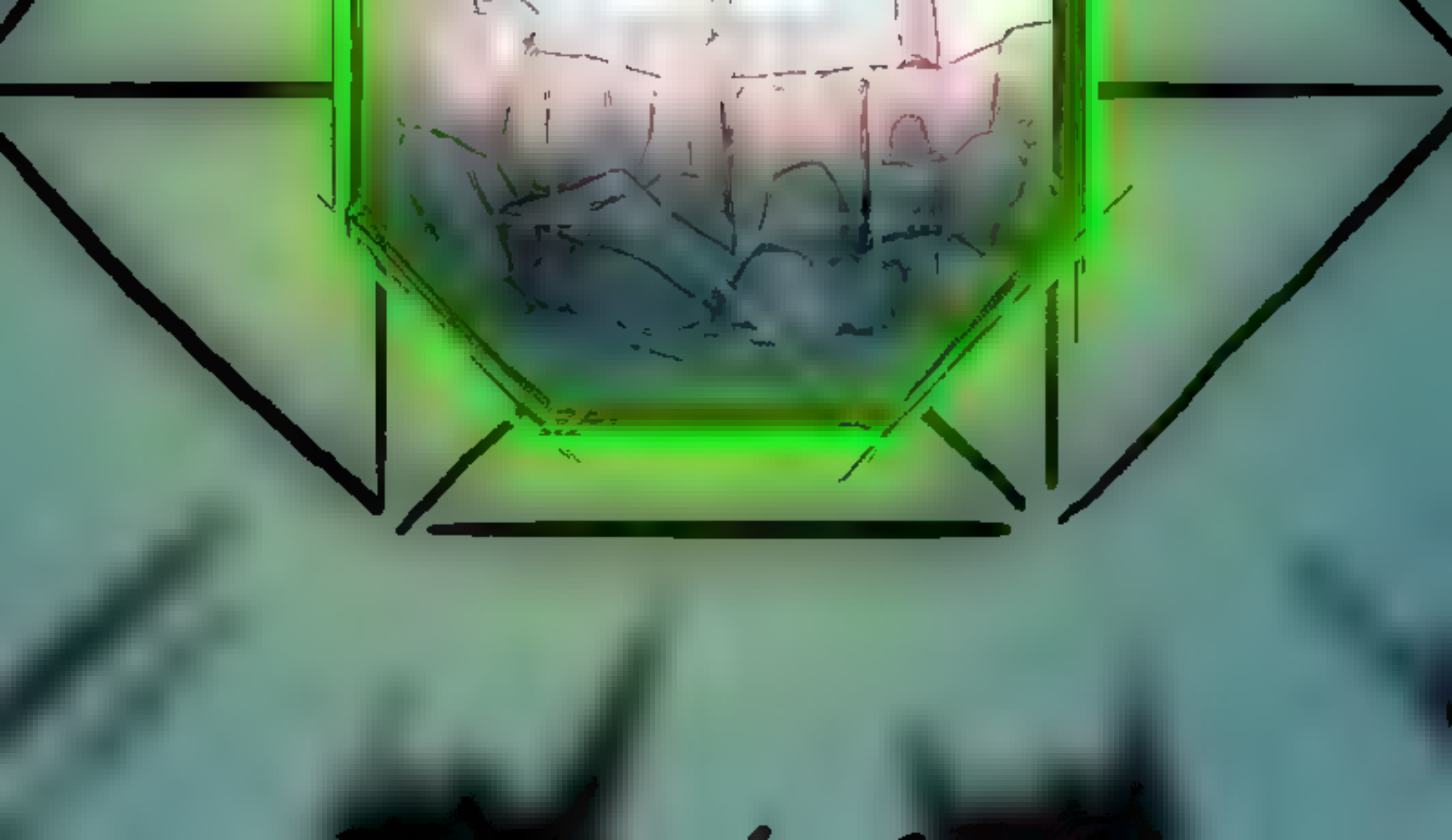
SHIT!

HAHA...
YOU ARE
WISE TO

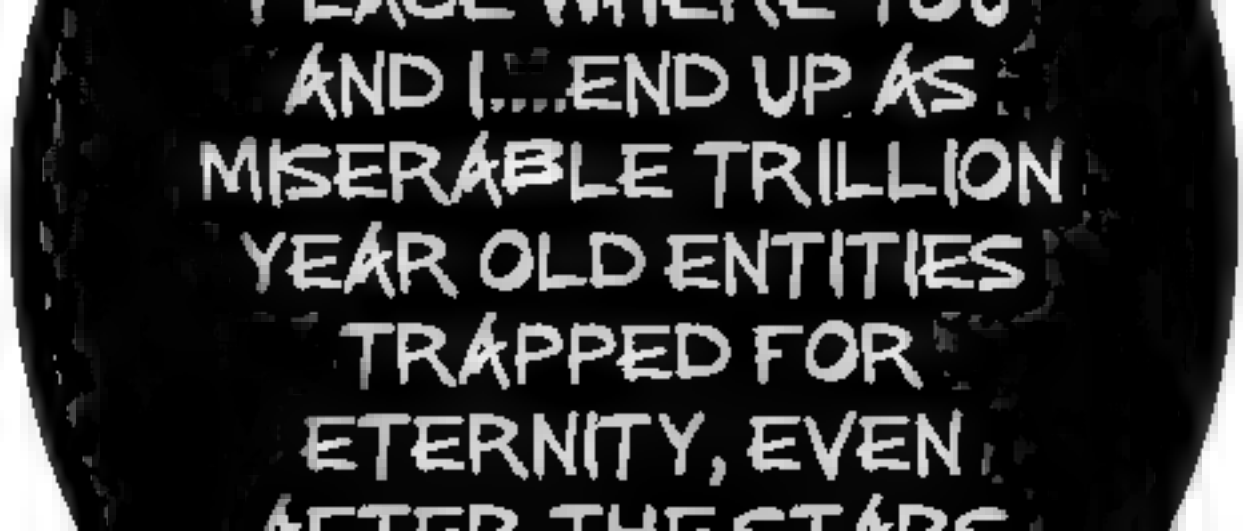
HESITATE...
...BUT YOU


HAVE PUSHED THIS LITTLE GAME OF OURS TOO FAR.
IMMORTALITY COMES WITH A TERRIBLE PRICE... ONE YOU TOO


SHALL SOON
KNOW.

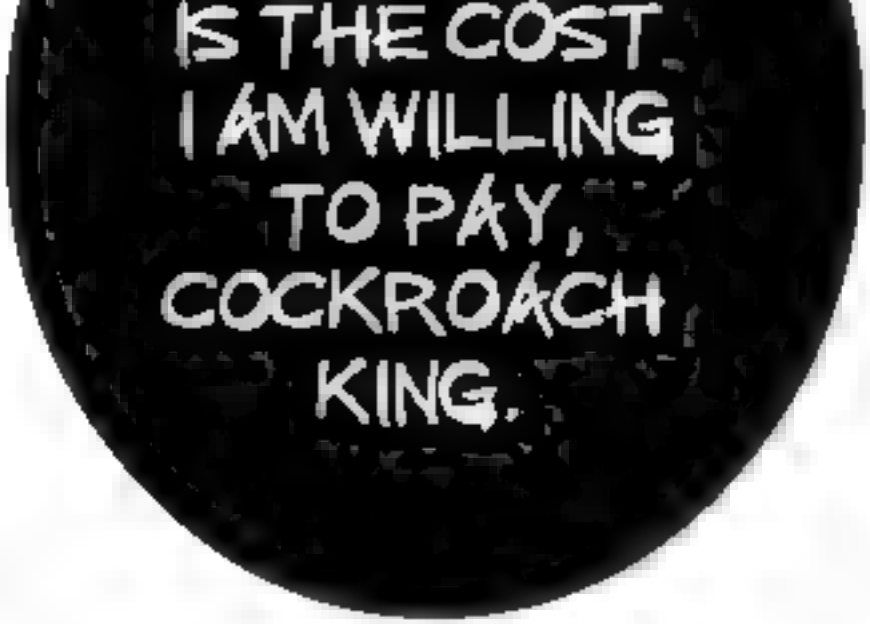


REJOICE!
THIS IS THE


PEACE WHERE YOU
AND I....END UP AS
MISERABLE TRILLION
YEAR OLD ENTITIES
TRAPPED FOR
ETERNITY, EVEN

AFTER THE STARS
ARE GONE.

THIS


IS THE COST
I AM WILLING
TO PAY,
COCKROACH
KING.

I'LL HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO FIGURE AN ESCAPE.
EVEN YOU CANNOT PLAN FOR INFINITY.

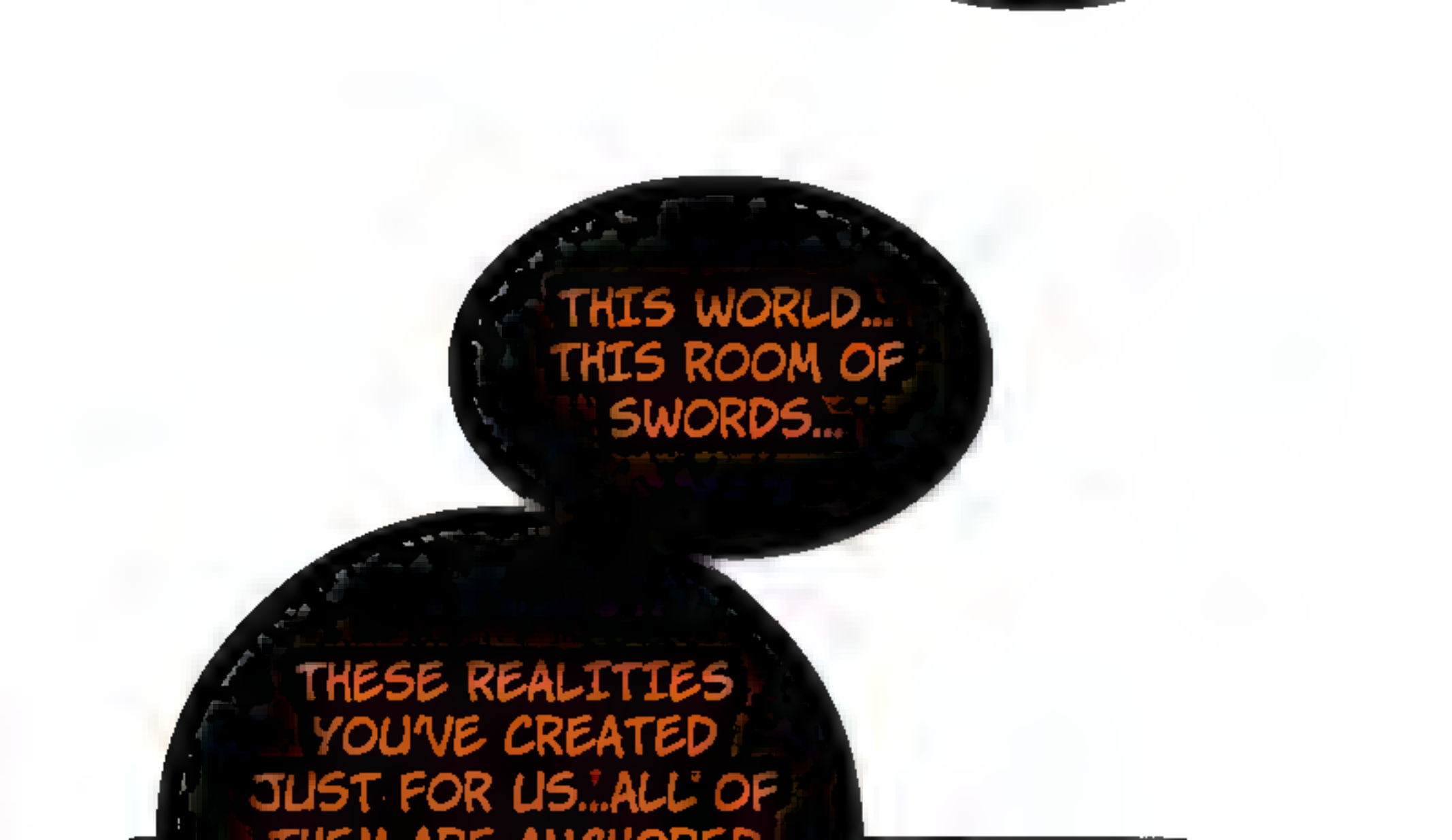
BY JOINING ME IN THIS PRISON, YOU LEAVE ME A KEY.
THE FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN.

THE FULL STORY HAS BEEN

WRITTEN.

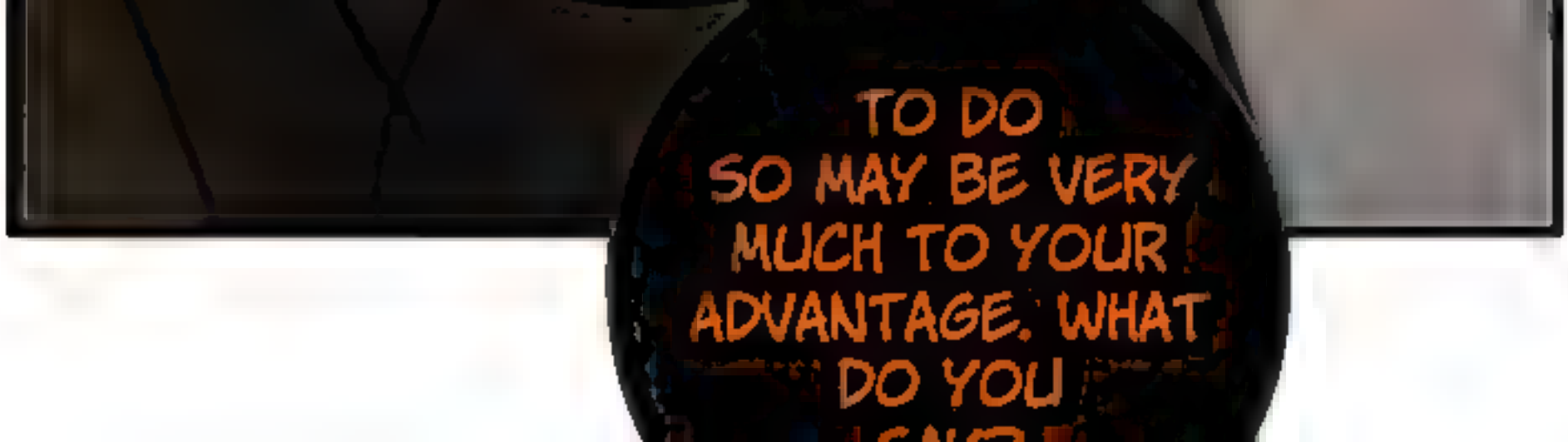
THE END
HAS MET IT'S
BEGINNING.

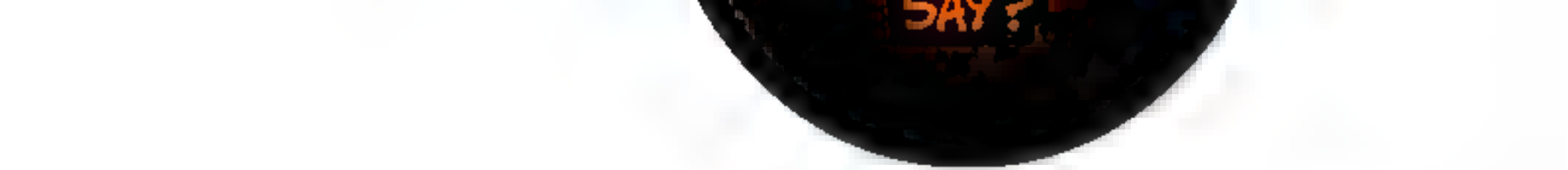
THE END ONLY SIGNALS A NEW BEGINNING, AMIGO.


THIS WORLD... THIS ROOM OF SWORDS...
THESE REALITIES YOU'VE CREATED JUST FOR US...ALL OF

THEM ARE ANCHORED IN YOUR BELIEF THAT THE VSC HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG.

MAKE SURE TO CHECK CAREFULLY WHICH REALITY YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN, AMIGO.

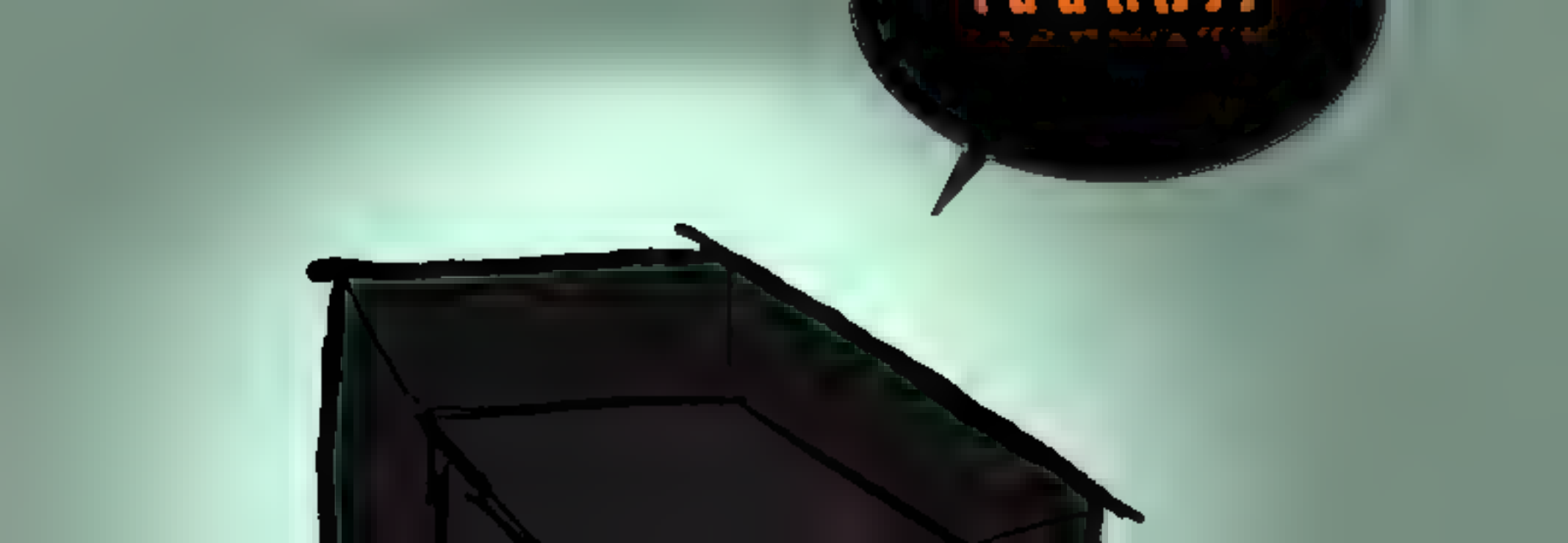

TO DO
SO MAY BE VERY
MUCH TO YOUR
ADVANTAGE. WHAT
DO YOU

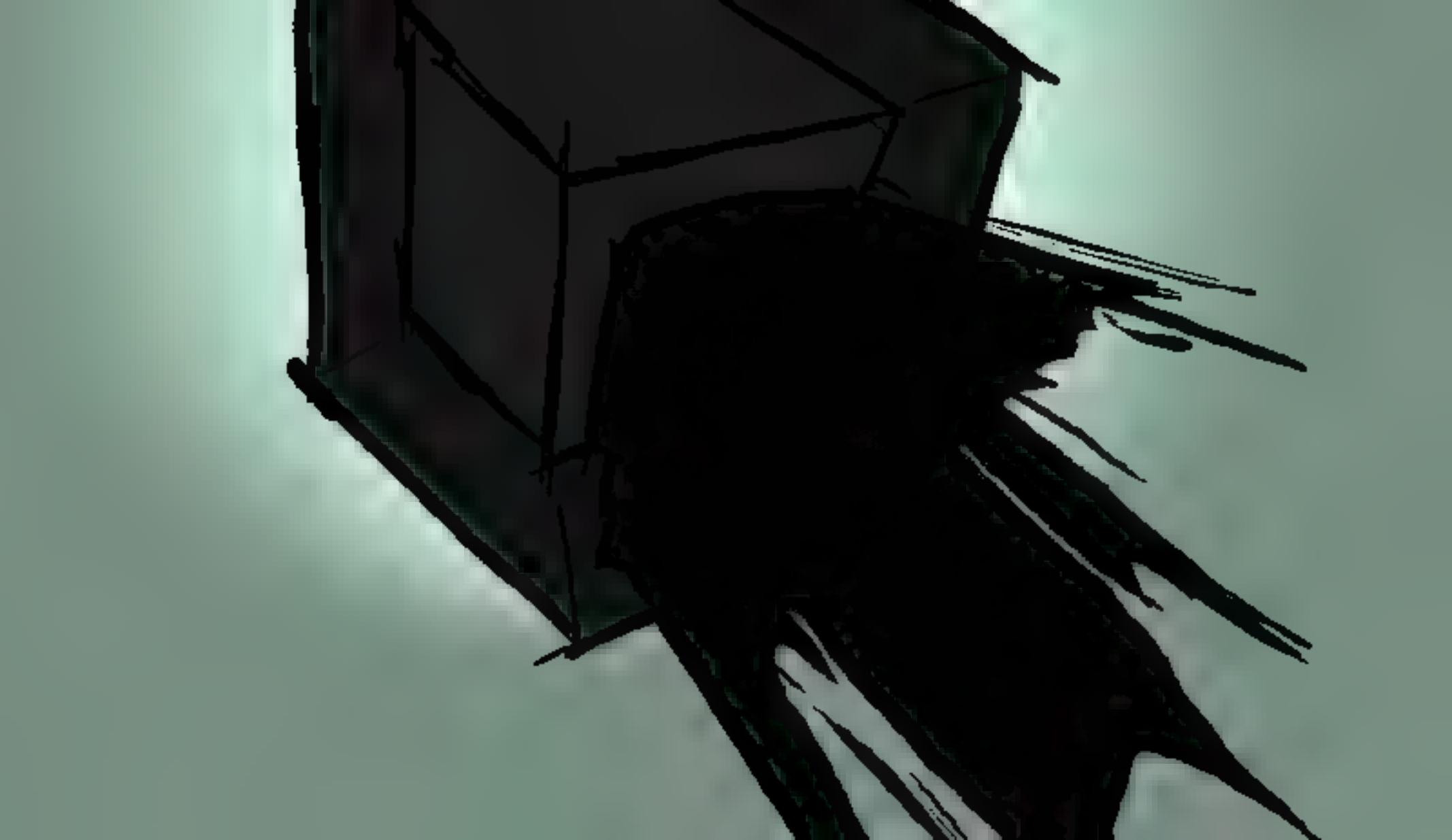

SAY?

THE DIE IS CAST. IT IS DONE!

ZOOM!

AAAH!!!

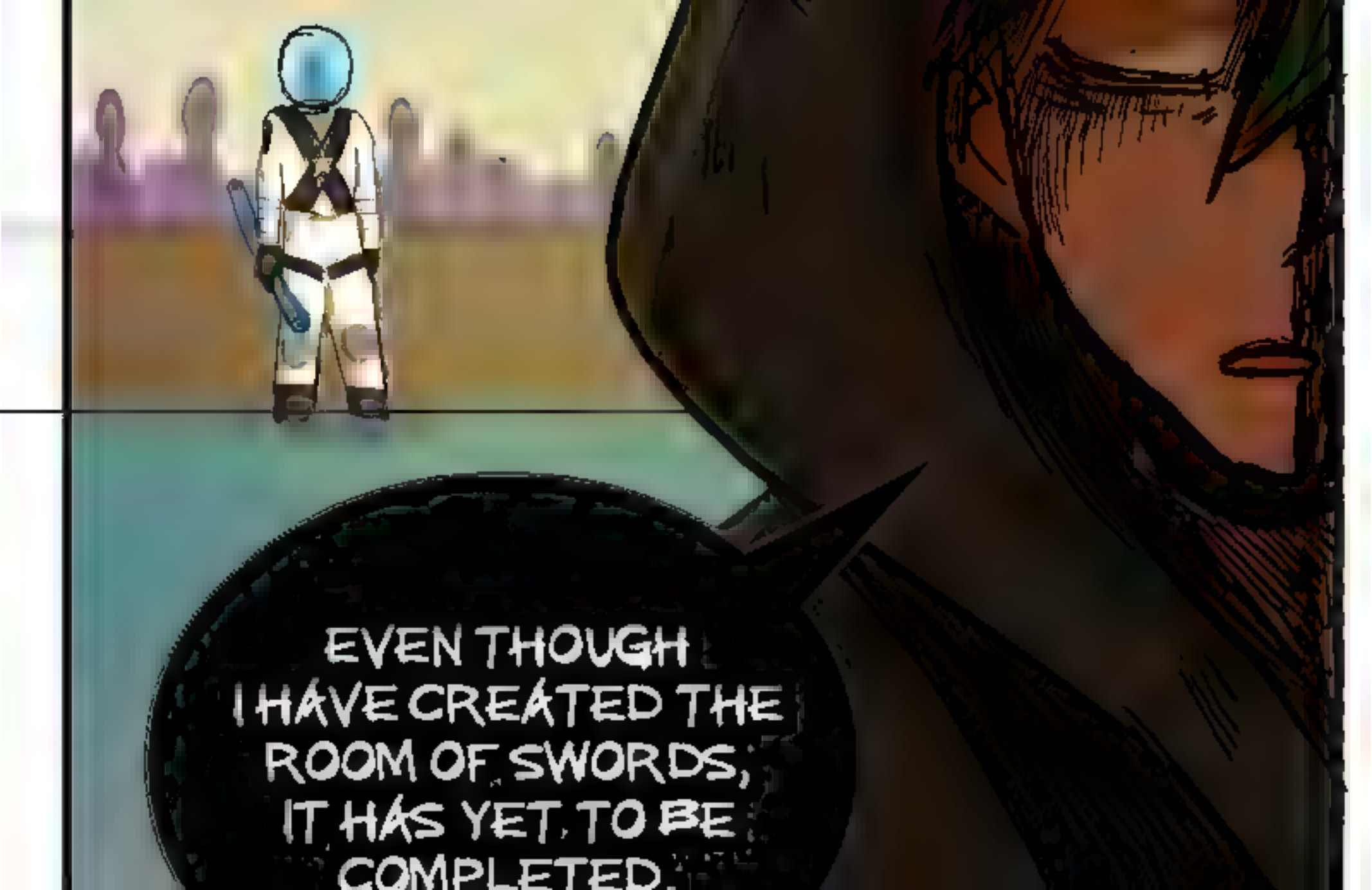


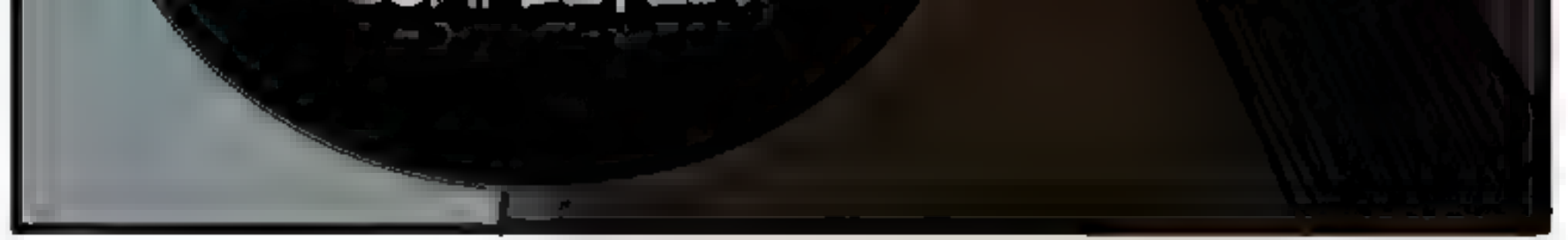


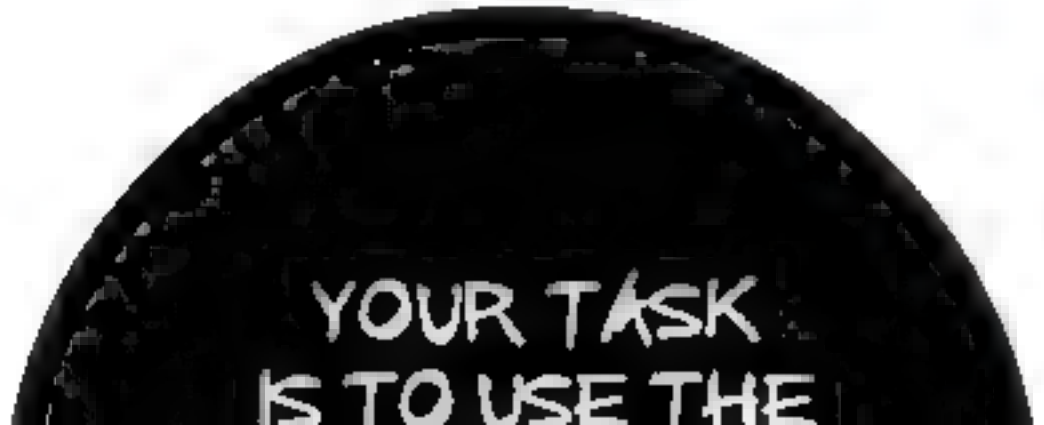
SEAL

GYRUS

BRING THE BLUEPRINTS.


EVEN THOUGH I HAVE CREATED THE ROOM OF SWORDS, IT HAS YET TO BE COMPLETED.



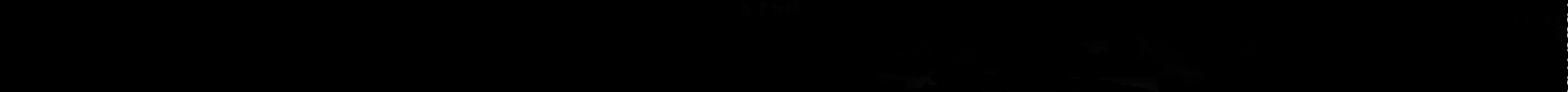

YOUR TASK
IS TO USE THE

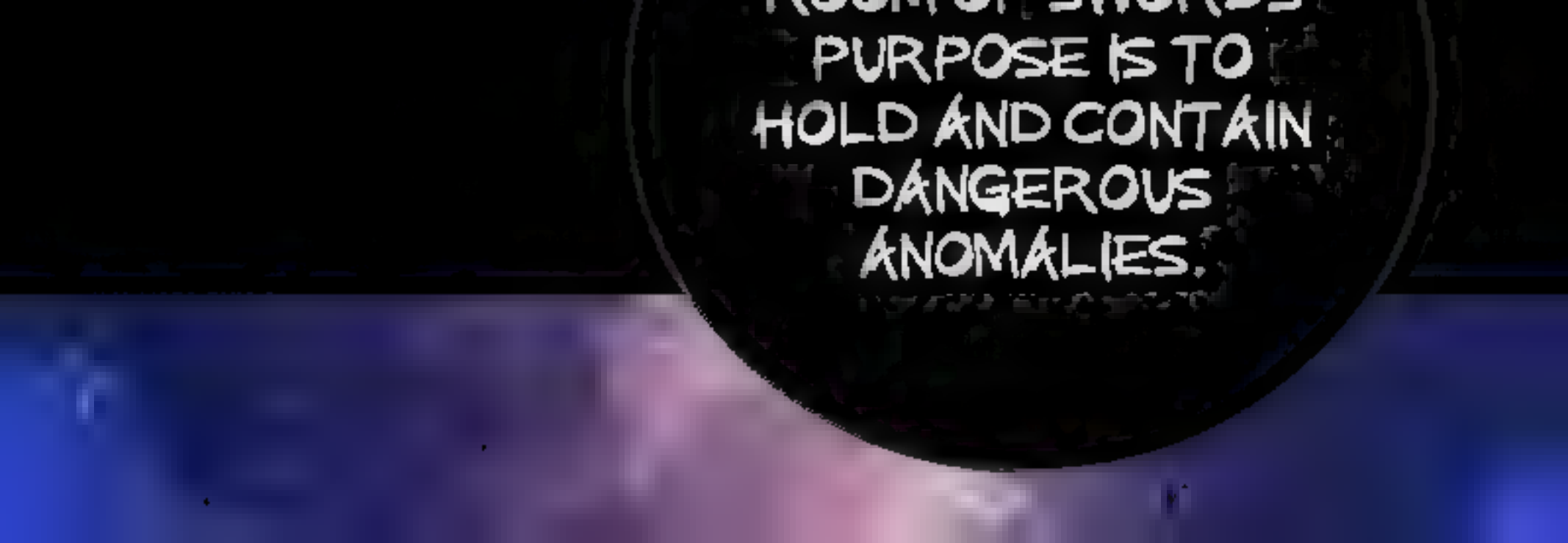
BLUE PRINTS YOU AND YOUR TEAM DESIGNED TO DO SO.

YOUR TASK
IS TO USE THE
BLUE PRINTS YOU
AND YOUR TEAM
DESIGNED TO

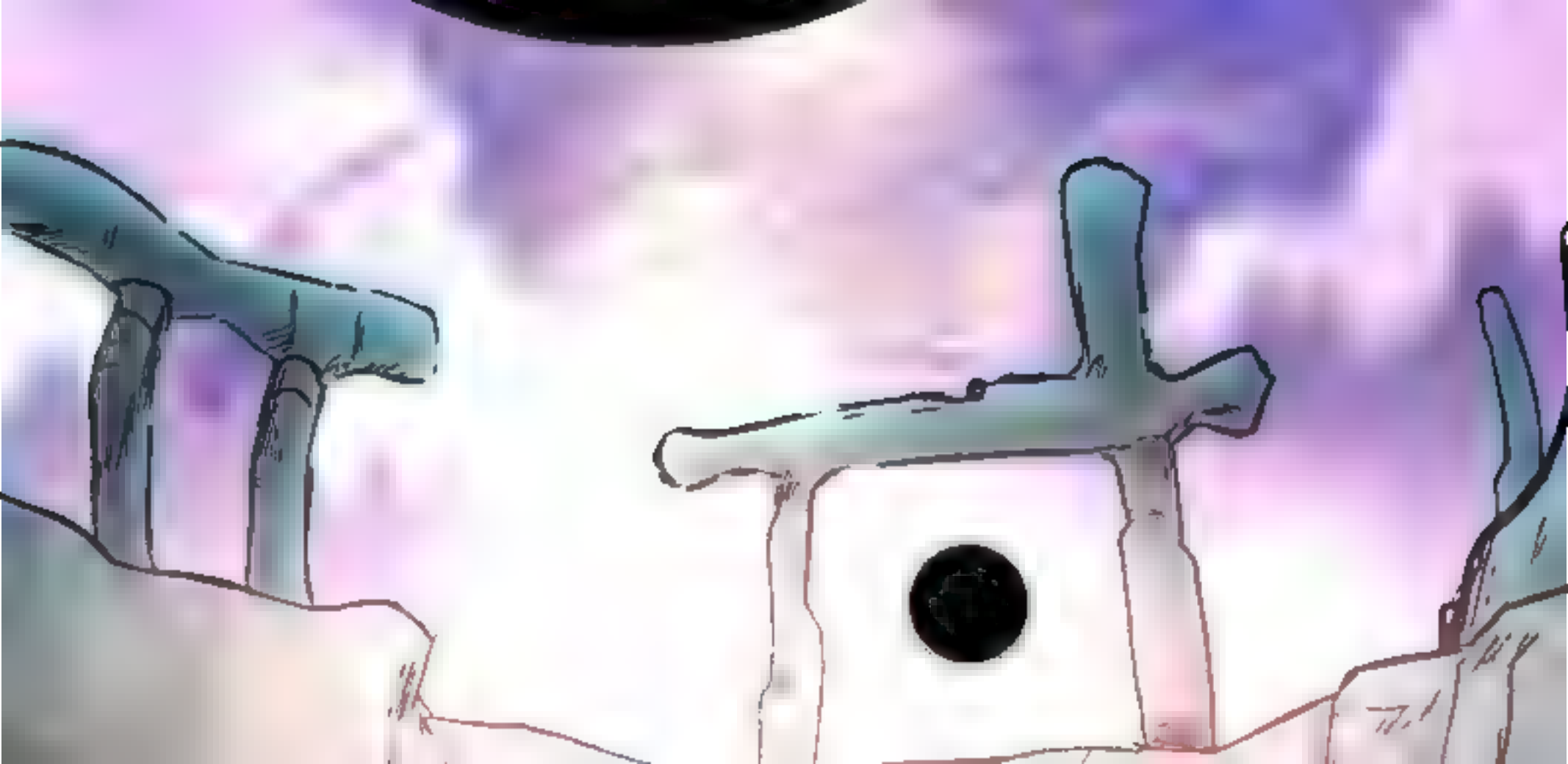
BUSU.
WHAT ABOUT DON?
WON'T HE MAKE IT

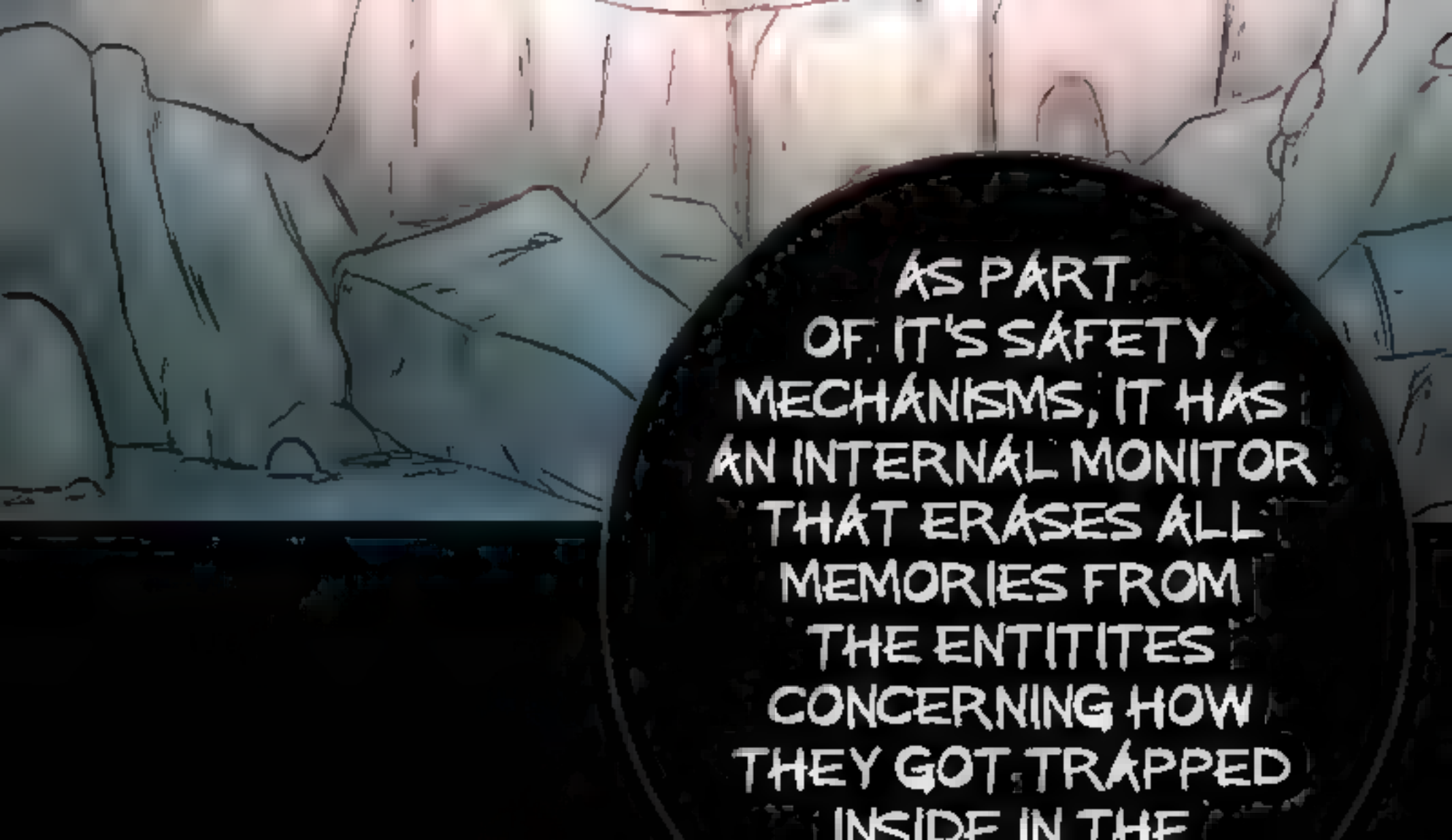
HE MADE IT
DIFFICULT FOR ME
TO COMPLETE
THE ROOM OF
SWORDS?


THE
ROOM OF SWORDS


PURPOSE IS TO
HOLD AND CONTAIN
DANGEROUS
ANOMALIES.

AS SUCH,
IT IS CONSTRUCTED
WITH VERY STRICT
SECURITY
PROTOCOLS.

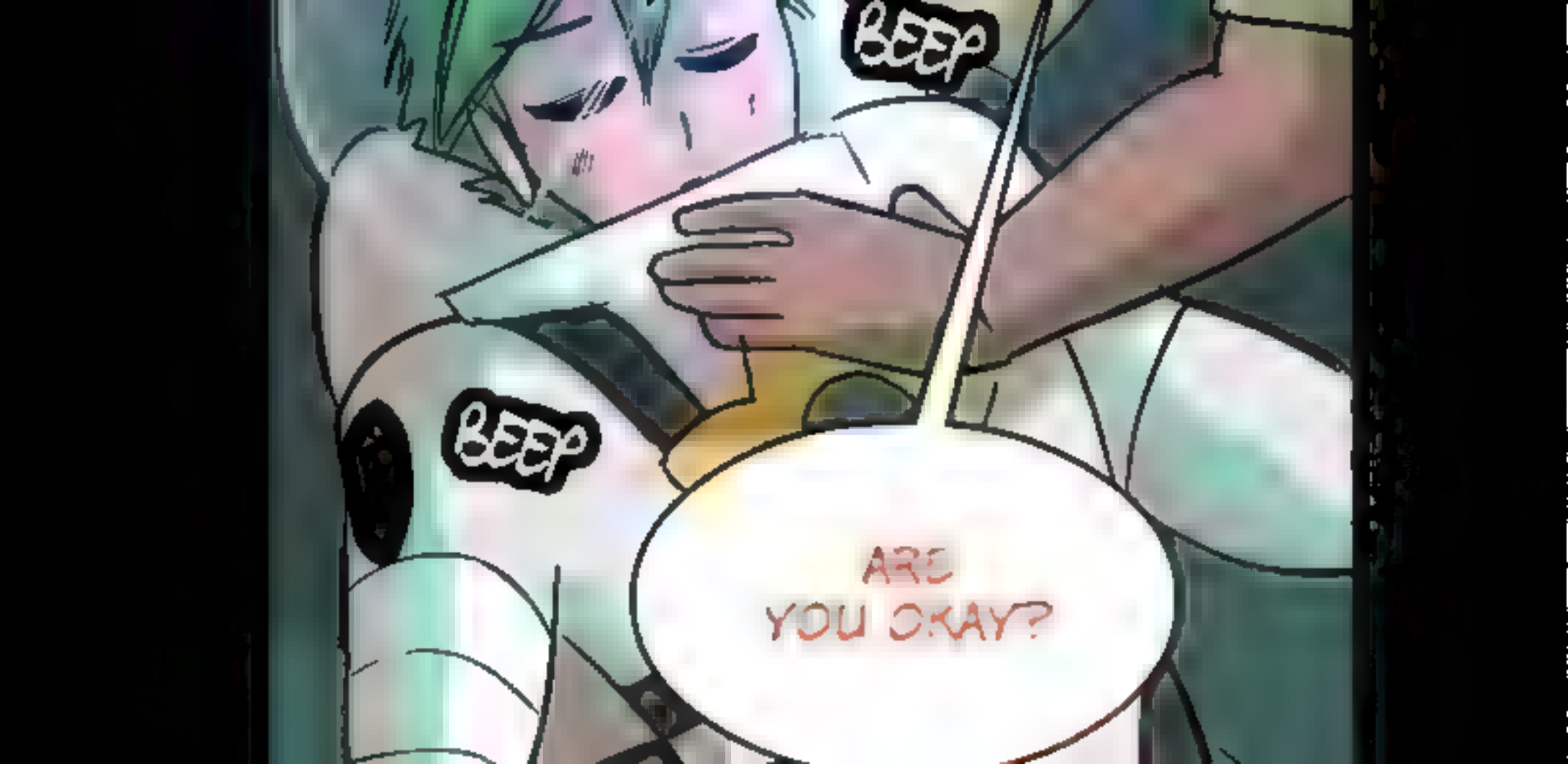



AS PART OF IT'S SAFETY MECHANISMS, IT HAS AN INTERNAL MONITOR THAT ERASES ALL MEMORIES FROM THE ENTITITES CONCERNING HOW THEY GOT TRAPPED INSIDE IN THE

FIRST PLACE.

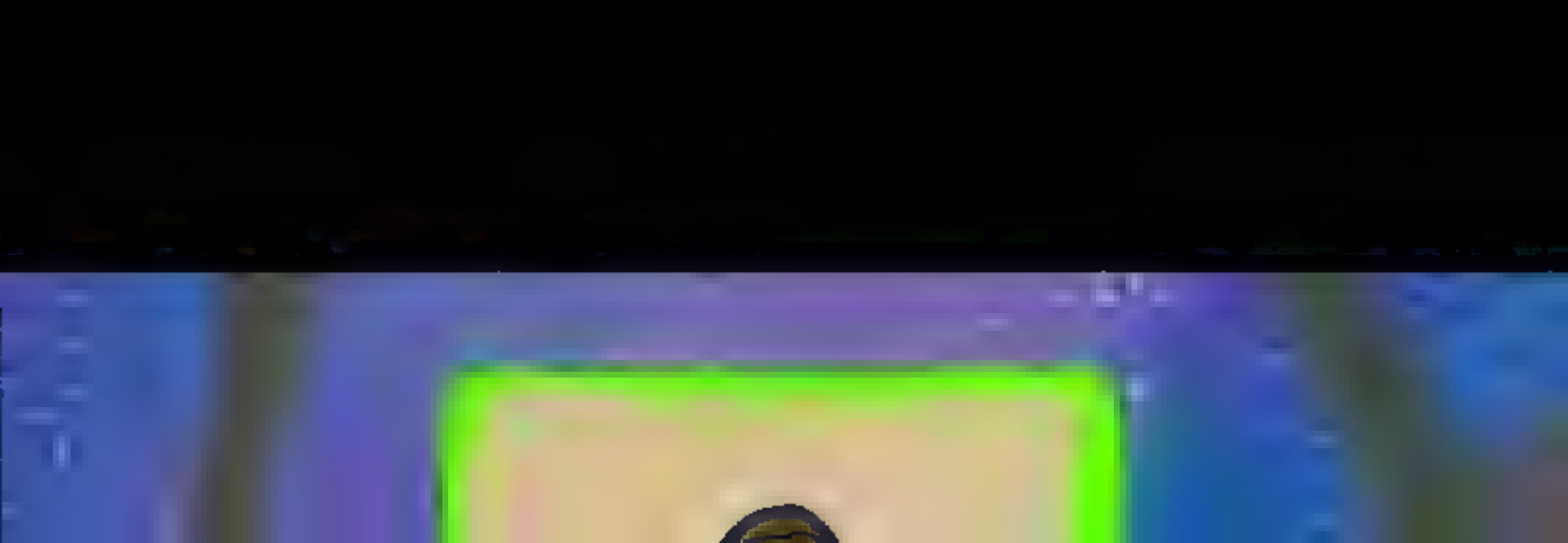
IN OTHER WORDS, DON SANTIAGO WILL NOT REMEMBER YOU OR ME, MAKING THE PRISON IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE ONCE ITS COMPLETE.

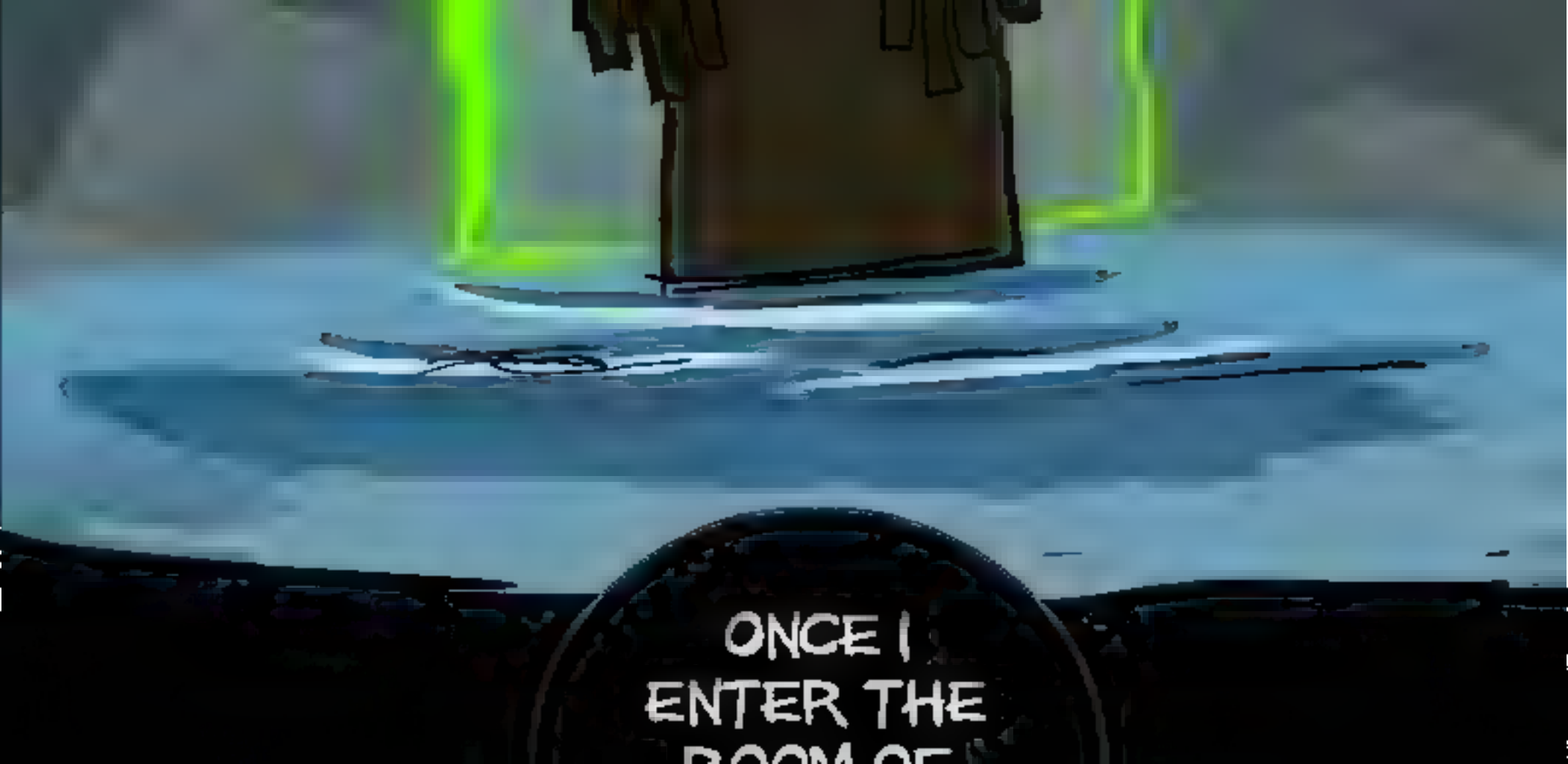
OYE!
CAN YOU HEAR
ME?


BEEP
BEEP
ARE
YOU OKAY?

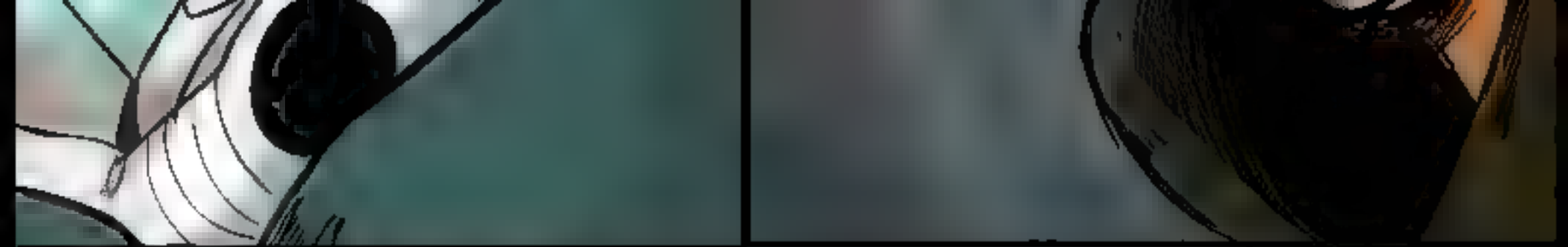
WHAT ABOUT ME? WON'T I FORGET AS WELL?

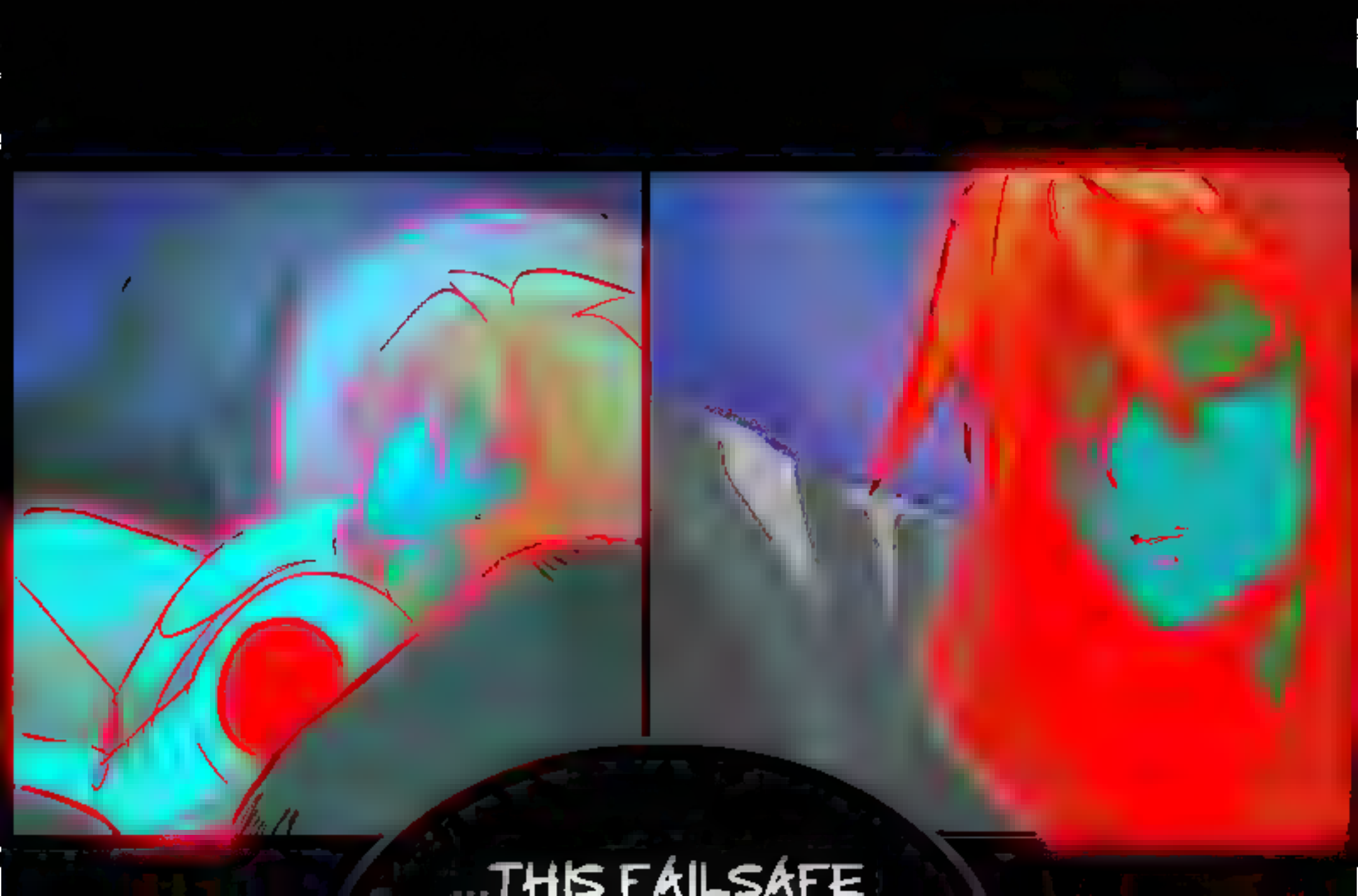
HOW AM
I SUPPOSED
TO COMPLETE THE
ROOM OF SWORDS
IF I DONT KNOW
WHO YOU ARE OR
WHY I AM
THERE..?




ONCE I
ENTER THE

ROOM OF
SWORDS...




...THIS FAILSAFE

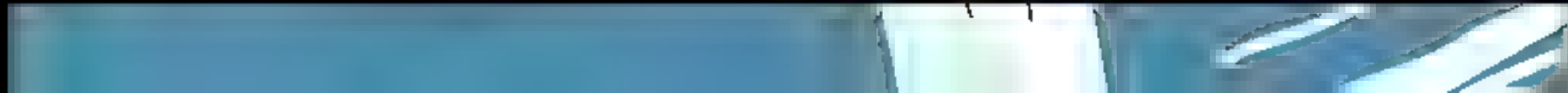
SYSTEM WILL
RECOGNIZE THERE
ARE TWO GYRUS.

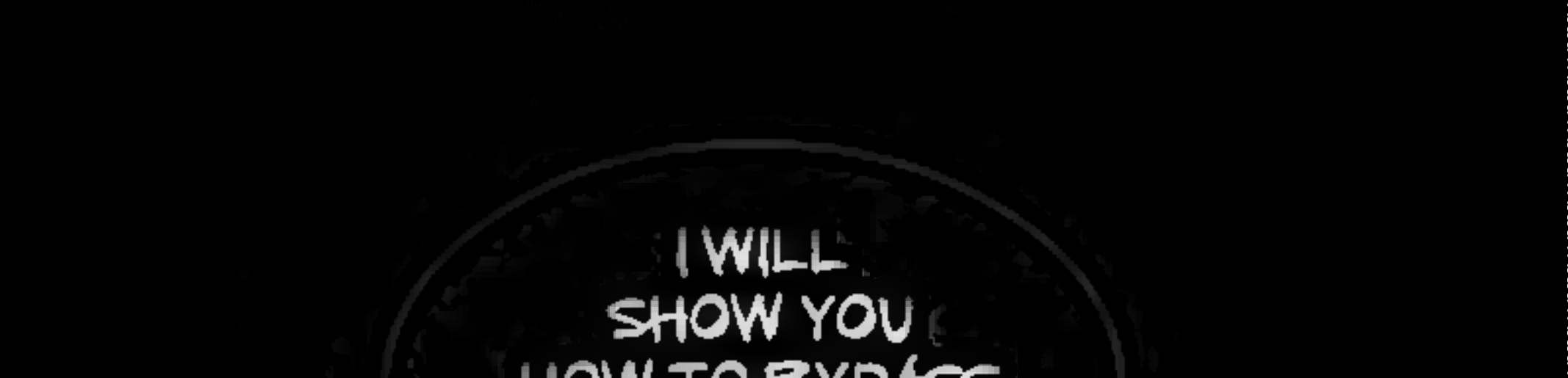
CAUSING A CORRUPTION: IT WILL TURN ME AND MINE

INTO A SHADOW OF
OURSELVES.

1999

BUT I WILL REMEMBER.
SHUT

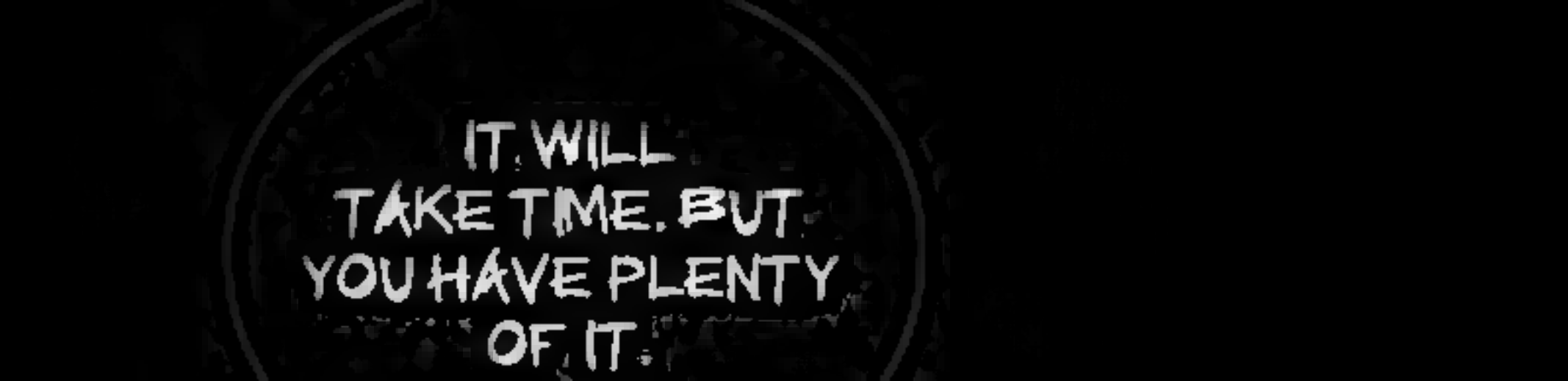



I WILL
SHOW YOU

HOW TO BYPASS
ITS MEMORY SAFE
MECHANISM.

THUNK

HOW CAN YOU GUARANTEE I WILL TURST YOU ENOUGH TO LISTEN?

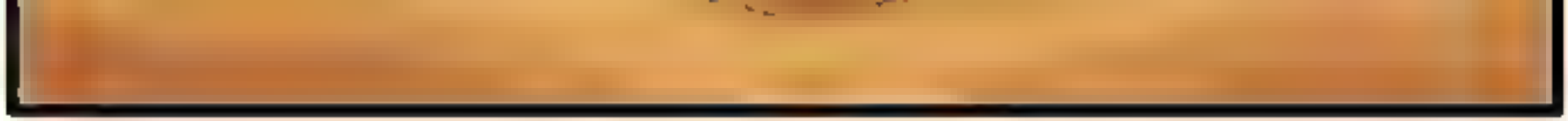

IT WILL
TAKE TIME. BUT
YOU HAVE PLENTY
OF IT.

WHEN YOU
ARE NOT AFRAID
TO DIE, YOU WILL

SUCCEED.

POP!

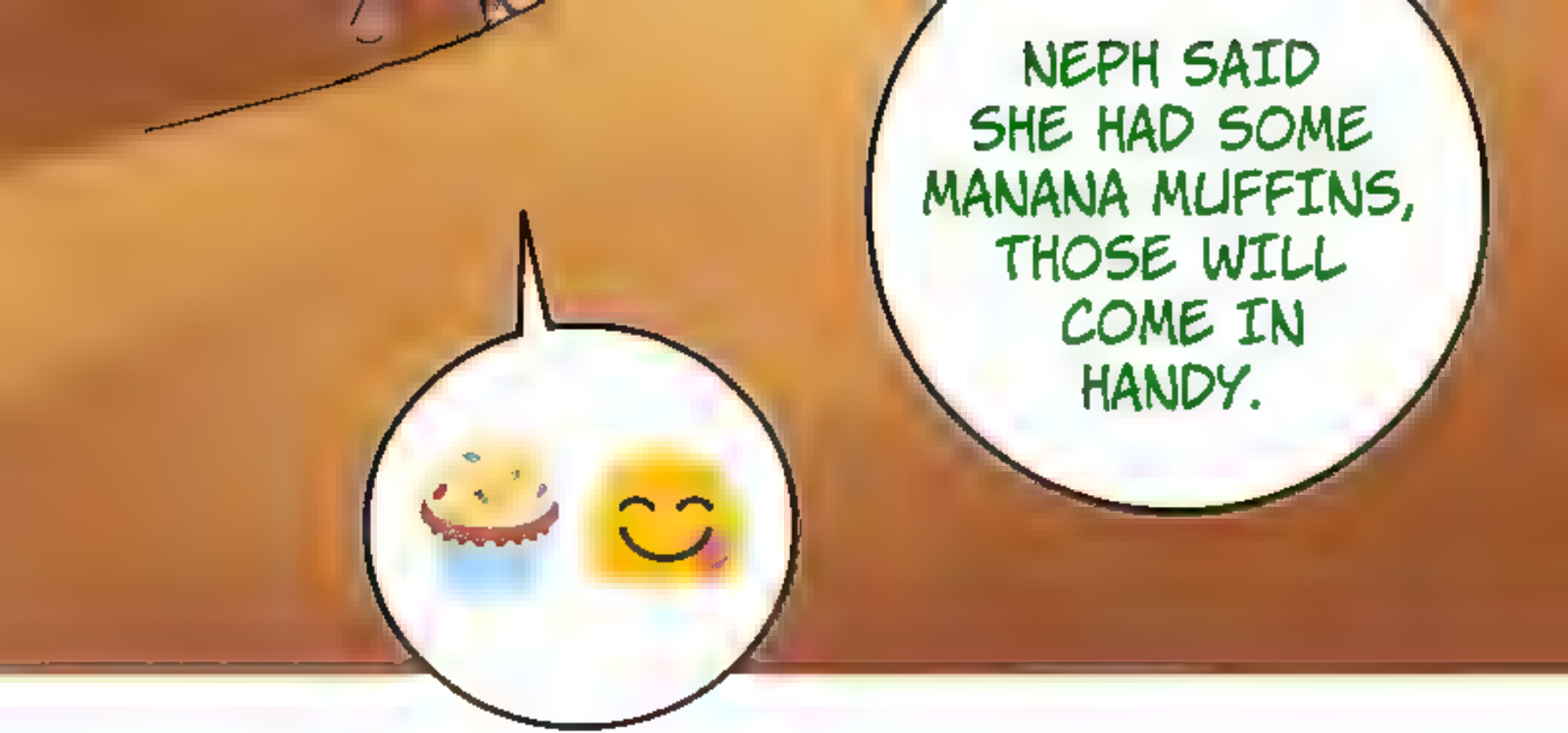
FWOOOSH



PHEW, IT'S SO HOT. NEPHTHYS, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?

YES, JUST OVER THIS SAND HILL. I JUST NEED TO PICK UP MY THINGS, AND WE CAN LEAVE.

AND WE ARE GETTING THOSE THINGS BECAUSE..?


NEPH SAID SHE HAD SOME MANANA MUFFINS, THOSE WILL COME IN HANDY.

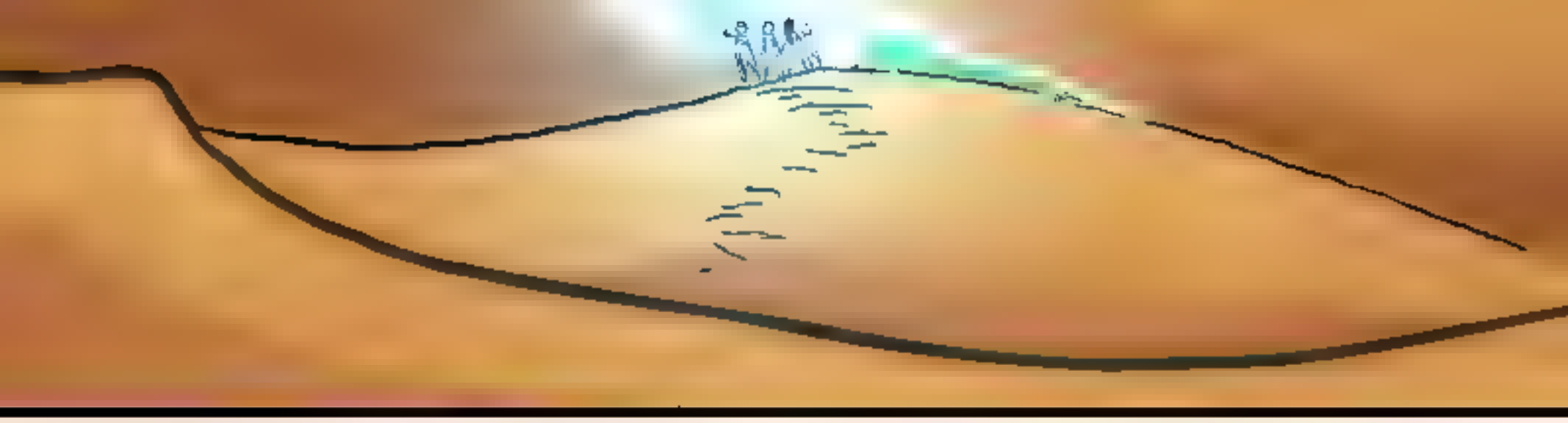
FINE. BUT
LIKE I SAID,
YOU'LL HAVE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED AT THE VSC.

HUH? WHAT IS

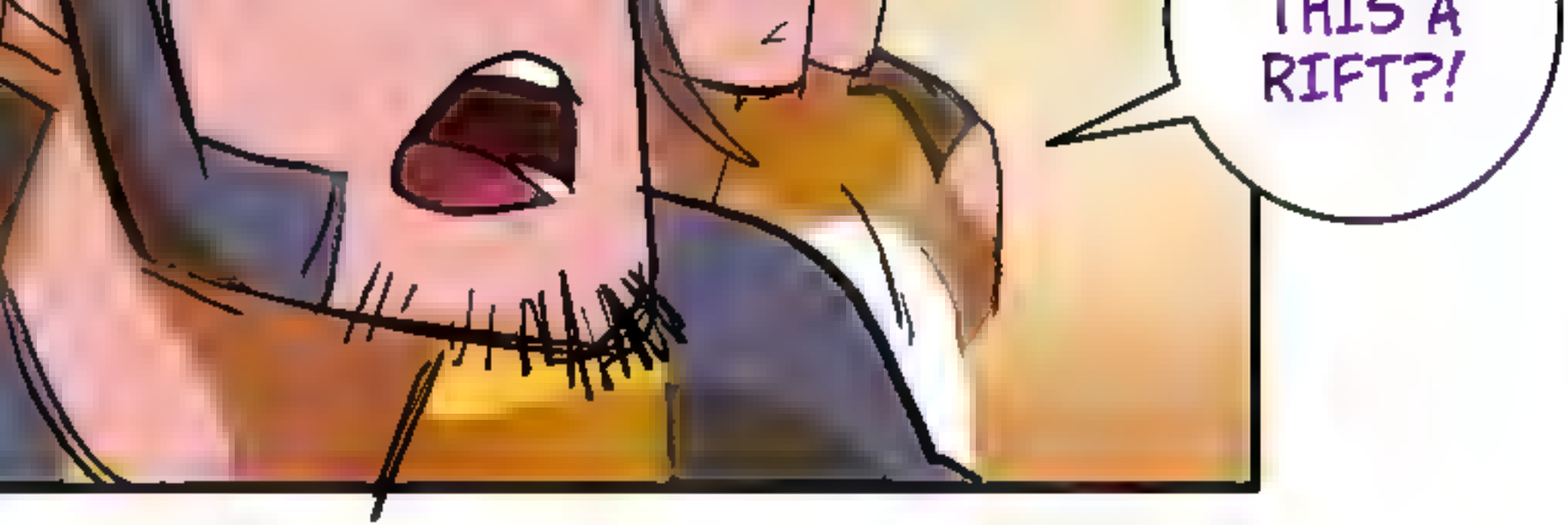
THAT?!

THIS
IS IT!



WHAT
DO YOU

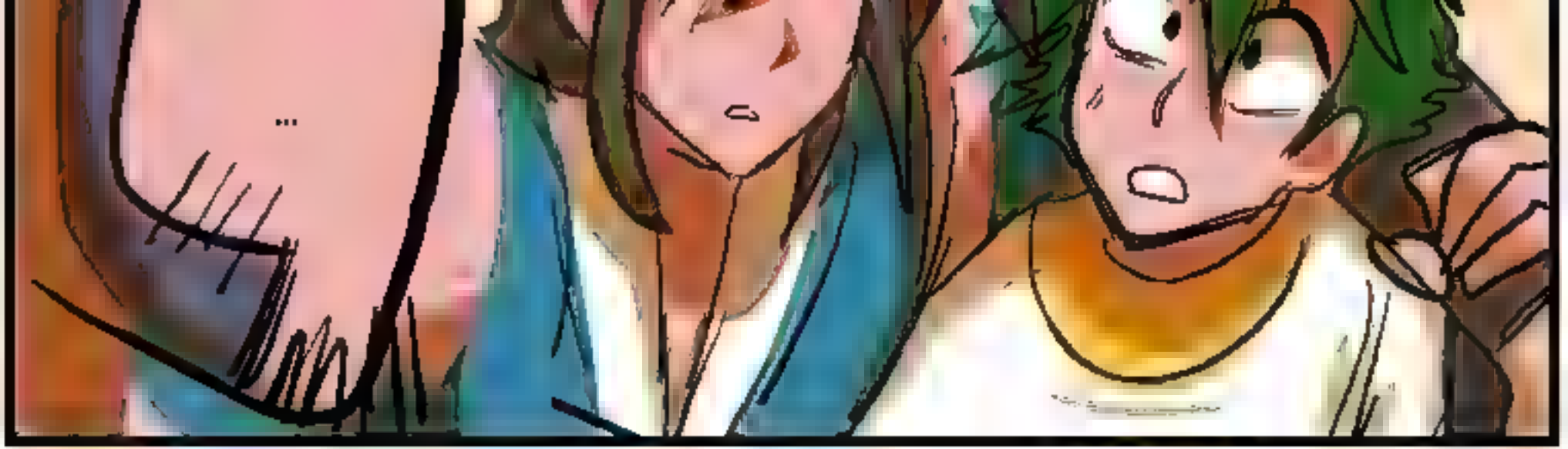
MEAN..?
WAIT!
IS


THIS A
RIFT?!

YES,
SIR.

CADET?

I...I'M SORRY! I TOLD NEPH IT'D BE BETTER TO JUST TELL YOU OUTRIGHT...

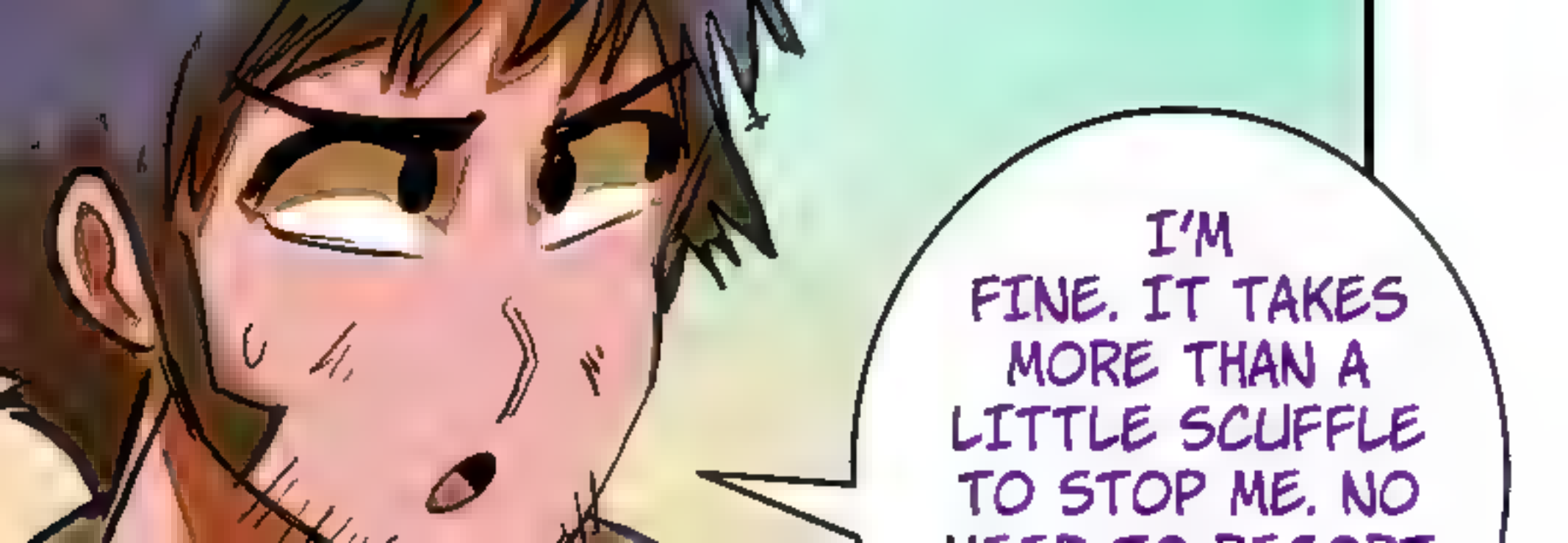


IT'S NOT
HIS FAULT. LOOK-

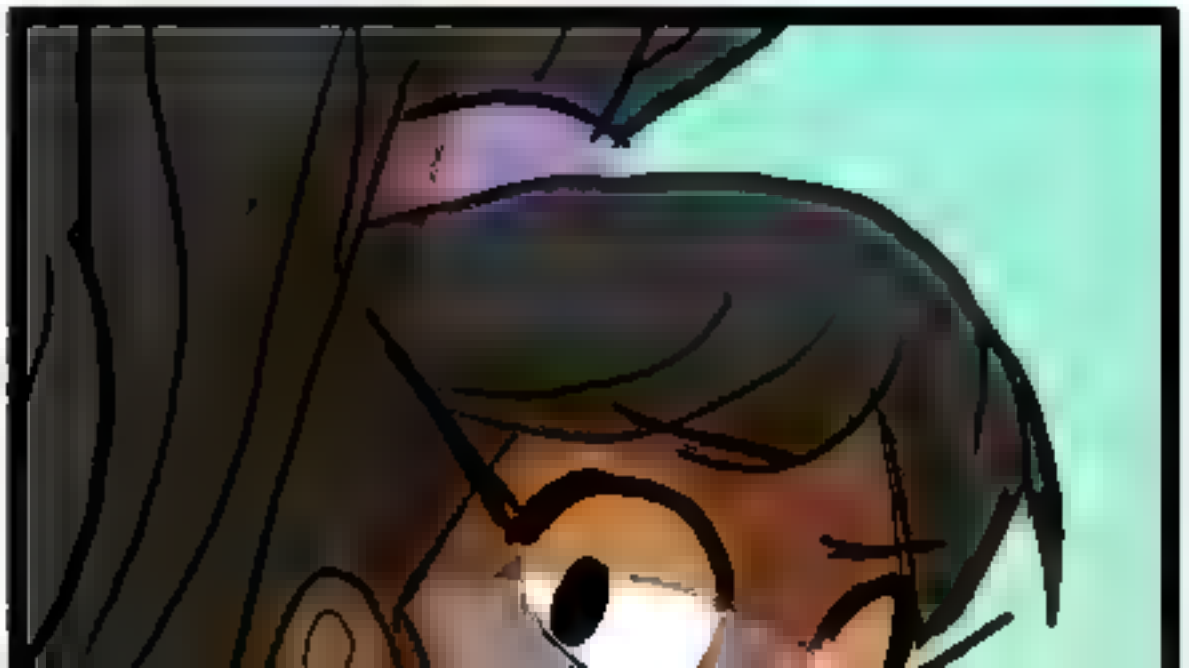
HIS TABLET. LOOK
YOU DONT HAVE THE
ENERGY TO CARRY ALL
OF US OVER THROUGH
TIME TRAVEL- NOT
AFTER YOUR
BREAKING
POINT...

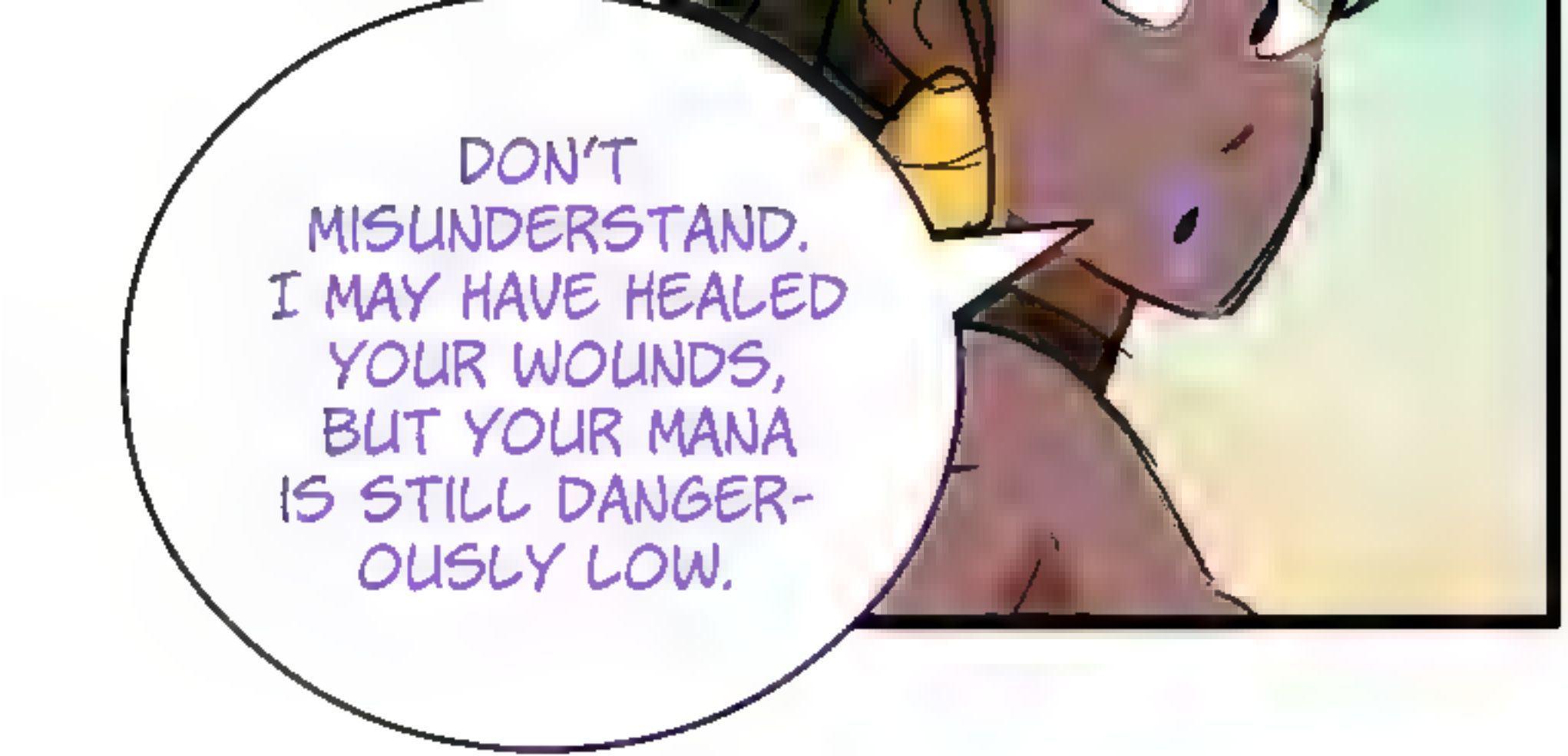
...YOU MIGHT BLEED TO DEATH IN THE PROCESS AND LEAVE US

STRANDED
WHO KNOWS
WHERE.

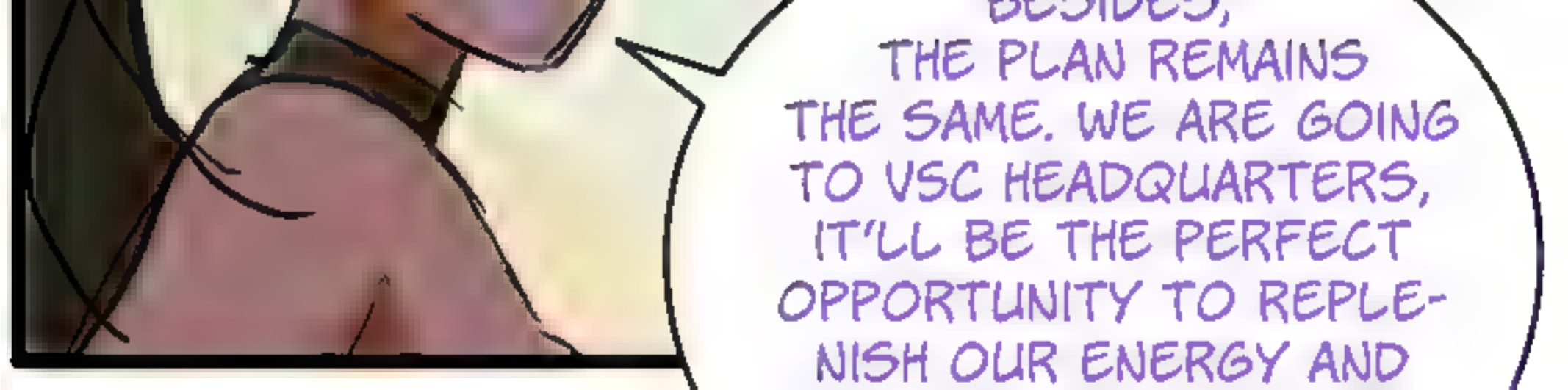

I'M FINE. IT TAKES MORE THAN A LITTLE SCUFFLE TO STOP ME. NO

NEED TO RESORT TO DRASTIC MEASURES.

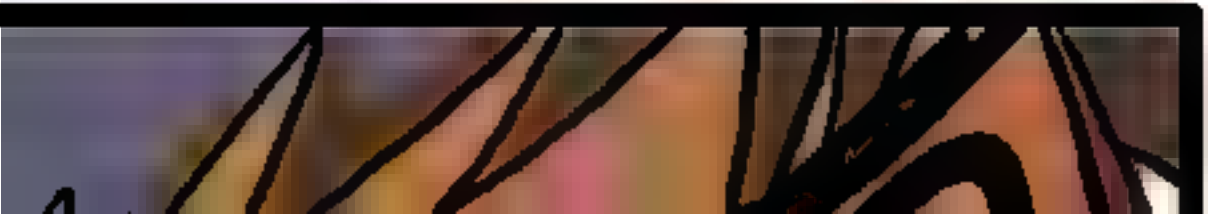



DON'T MISUNDERSTAND. I MAY HAVE HEALED YOUR WOUNDS, BUT YOUR MANA IS STILL DANGER-OUSLY LOW.

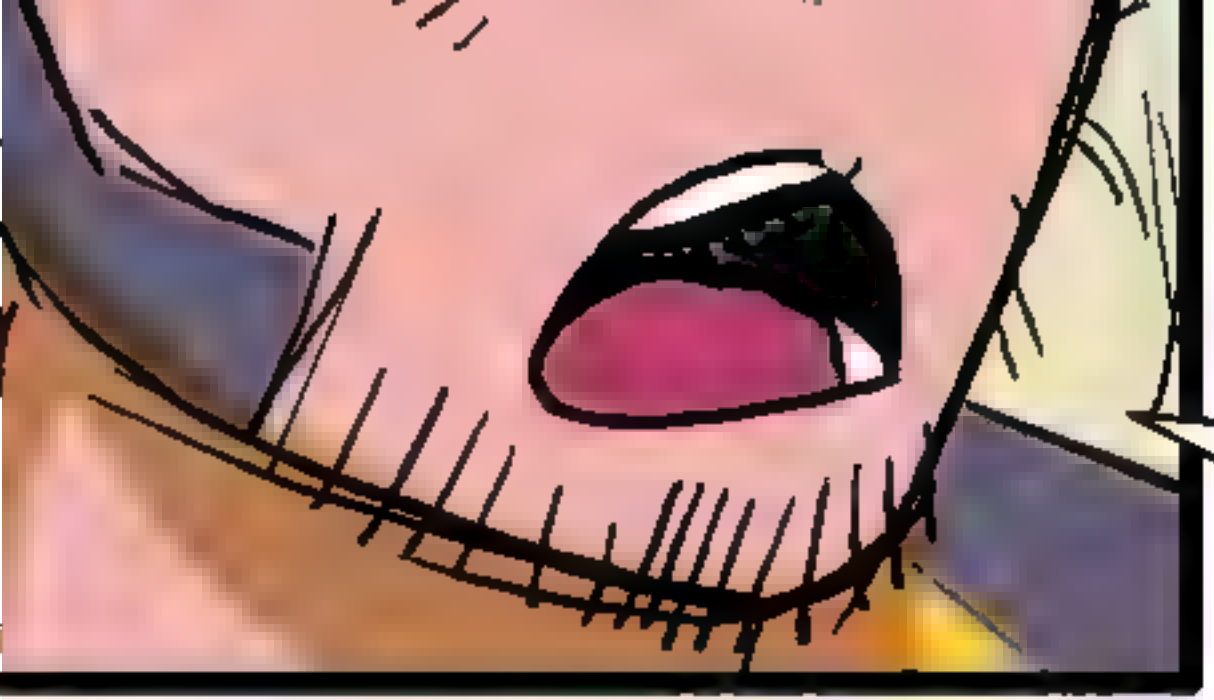
BESIDES


BESIDES,
THE PLAN REMAINS
THE SAME. WE ARE GOING
TO VSC HEADQUARTERS,
IT'LL BE THE PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY TO REPLE-
NISH OUR ENERGY AND

PLAN OUR NEXT MISSION: THE 1100S.



THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL WE'RE GOING THERE! IT'S TOO RISKY!



THE CHANCES OF NEW PARA-DOXES ARE TOO HIGH.

IF I CAN'T TRAVEL, THEN LETS STAY HERE AND CALMLY CHOOSE OUR NEXT STEP, NOT JUMP HEAD

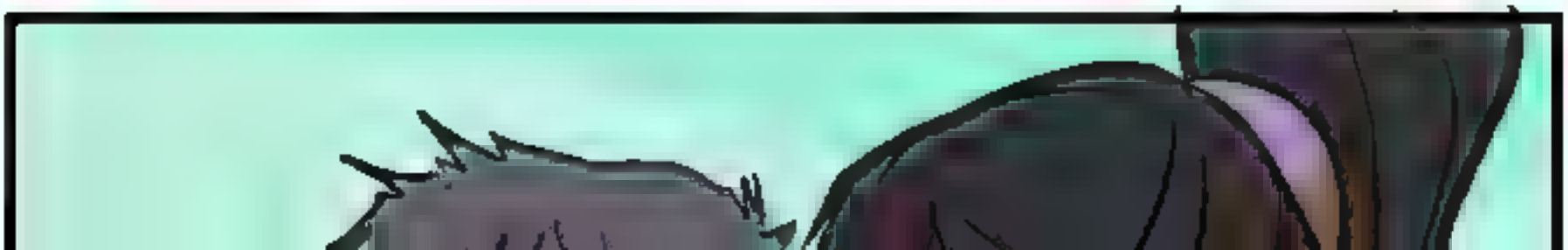
FIRST INTO THE FRYING PAN AND THE FIRE!

SWEETIE.

I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MADE UP SET OF RULES TO

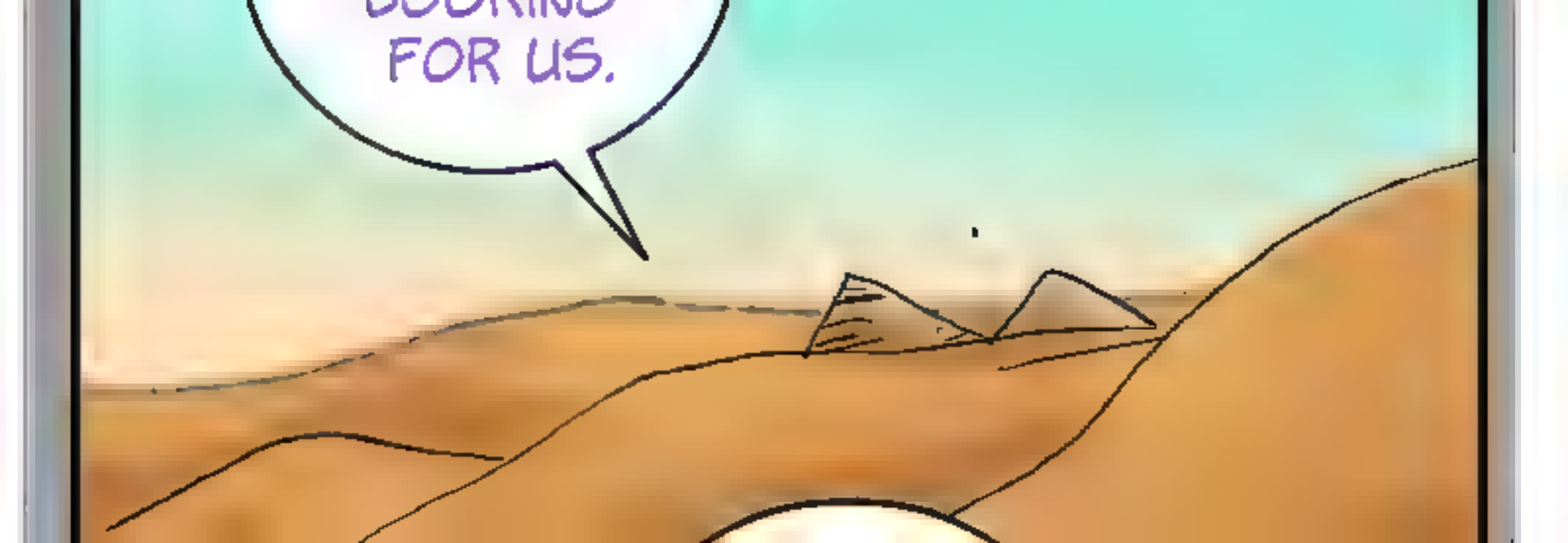
KEEP THE UNIVERSE IN CHECK OR WHATEVER..

BUT YOU HAVE TO BE REALISTIC HERE.

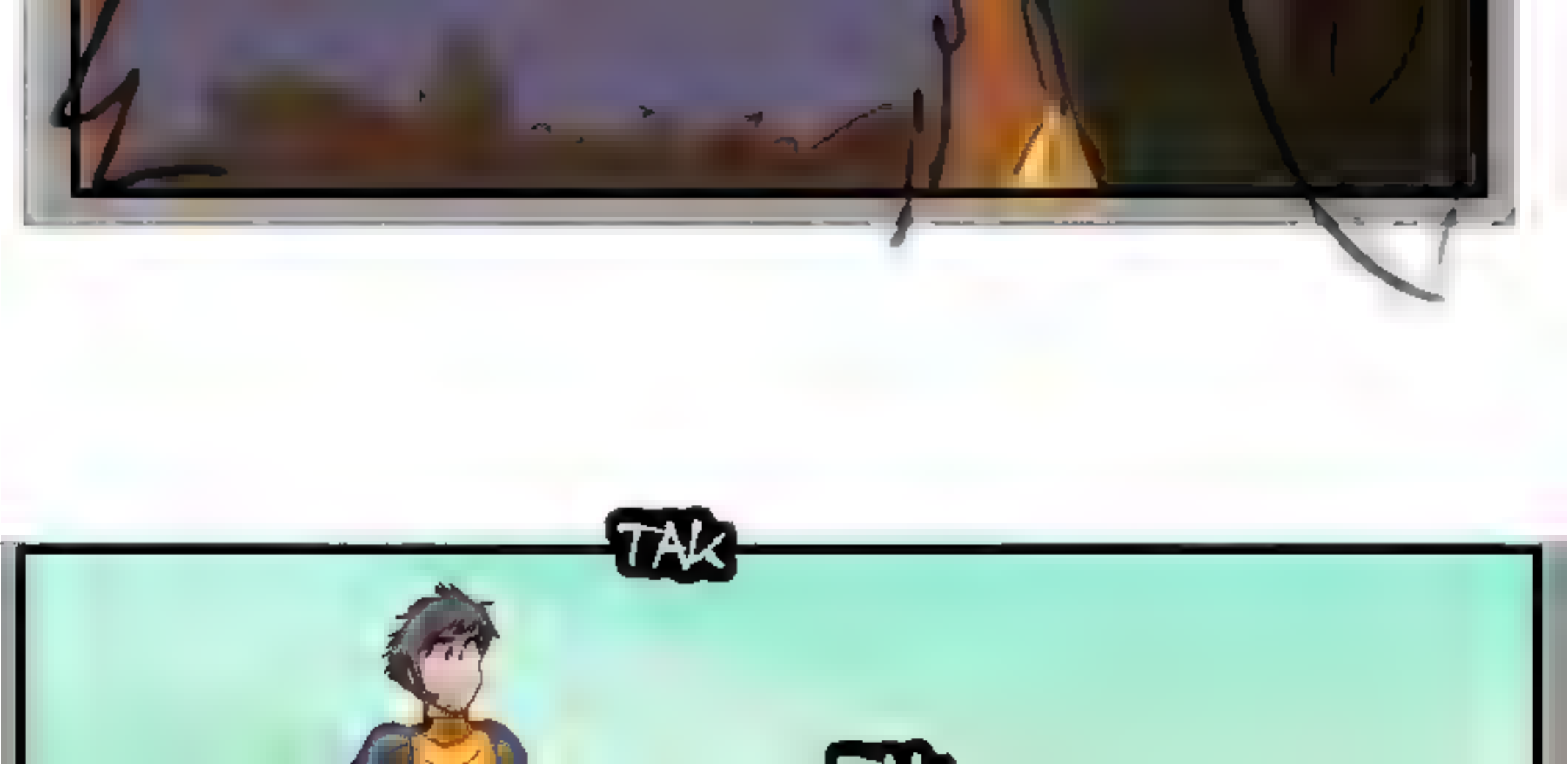


SEE
THAT?

DON IS OUT OF THE TEMPLE, LOOKING

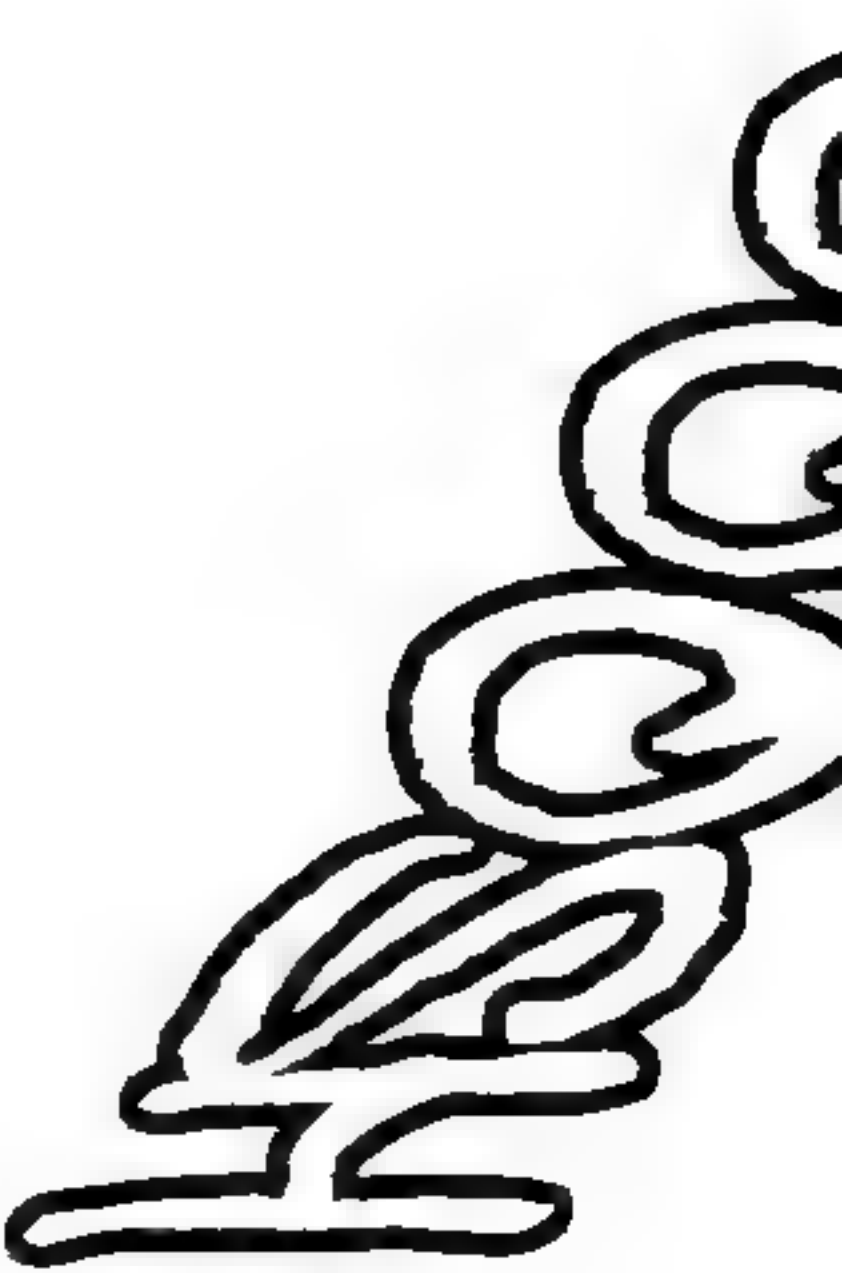

FOR US.

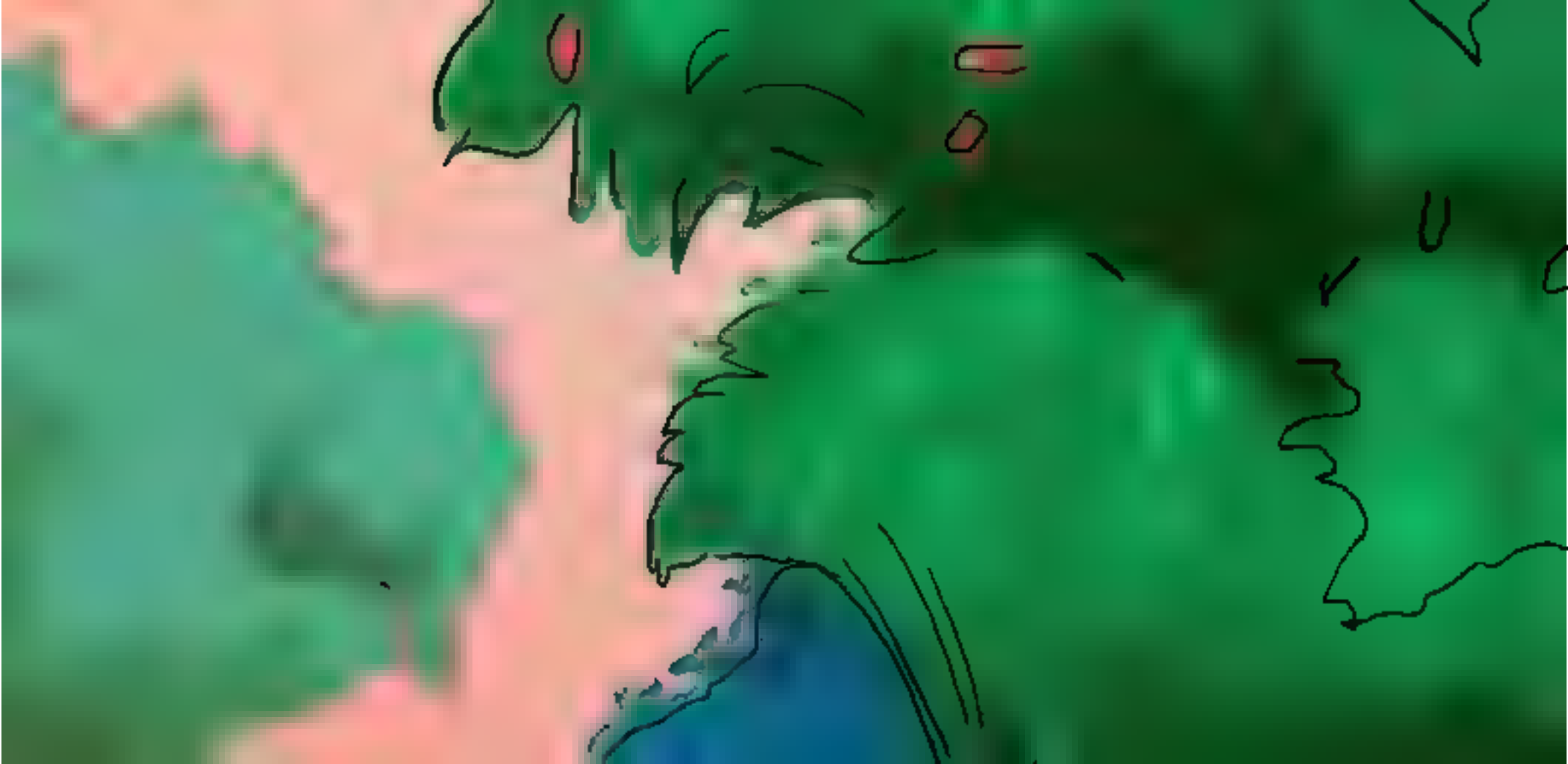
WE NEED TO GO. NOW.

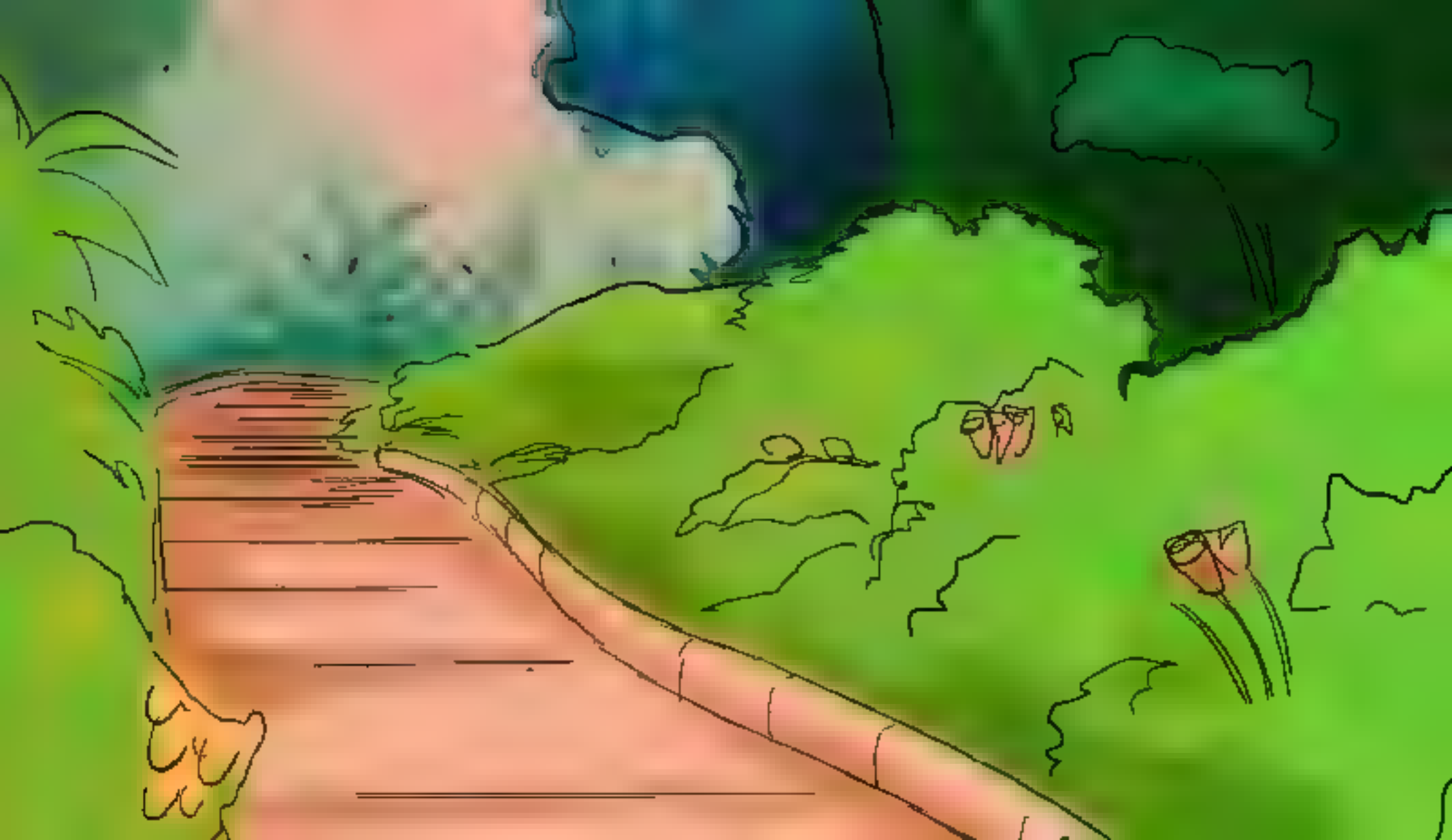

TAK

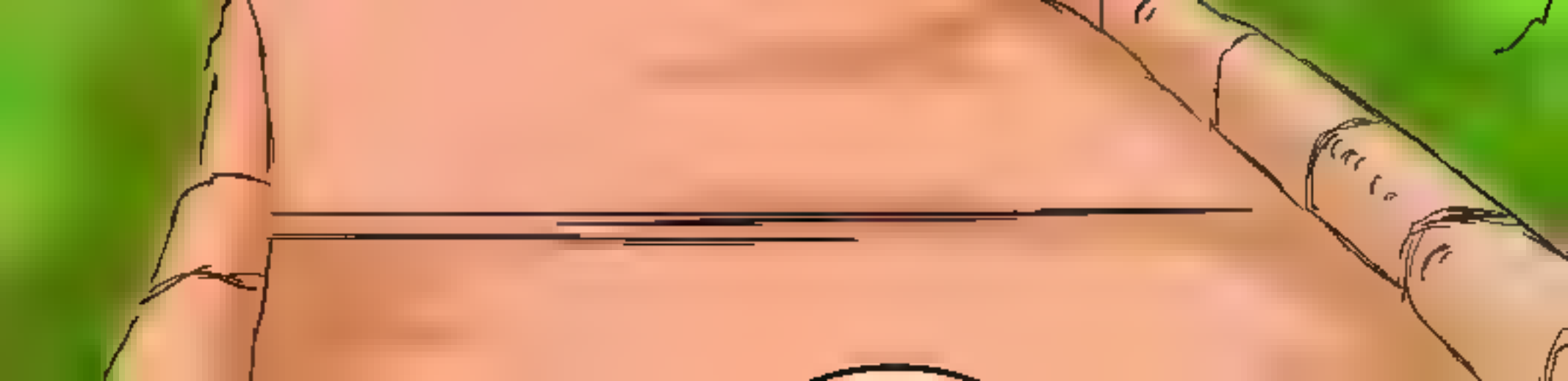
TAK
TAK

Shoes



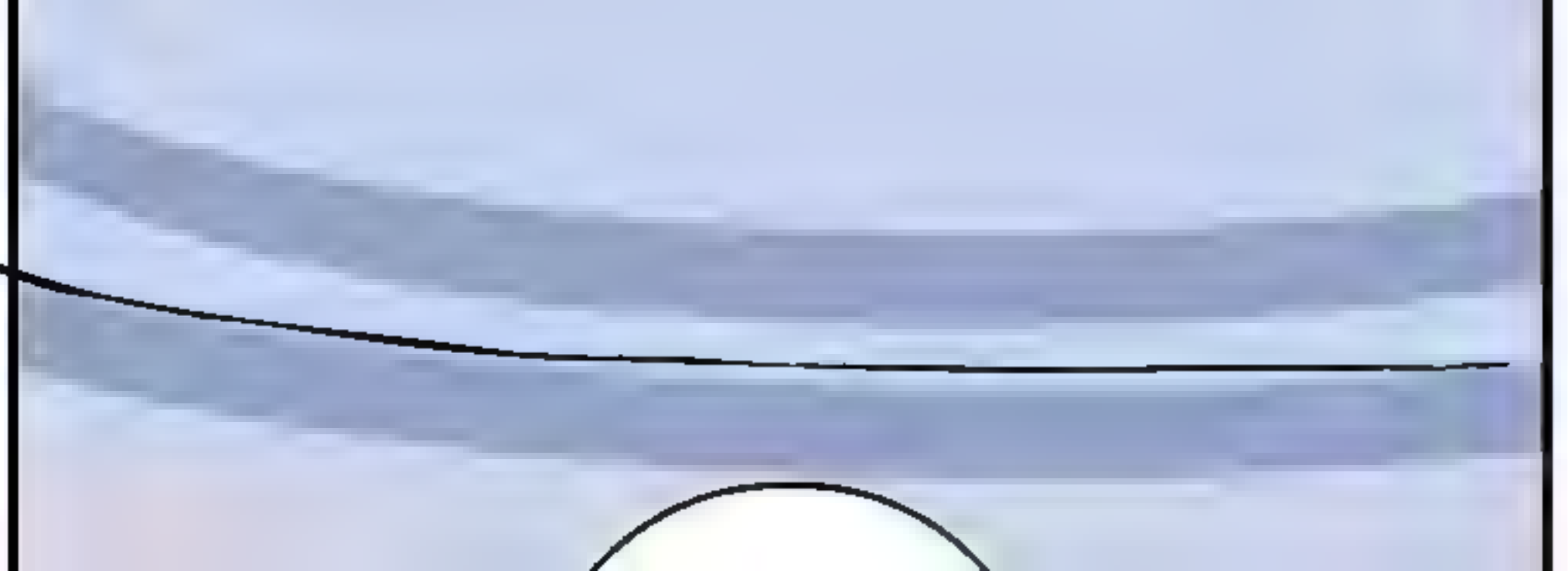




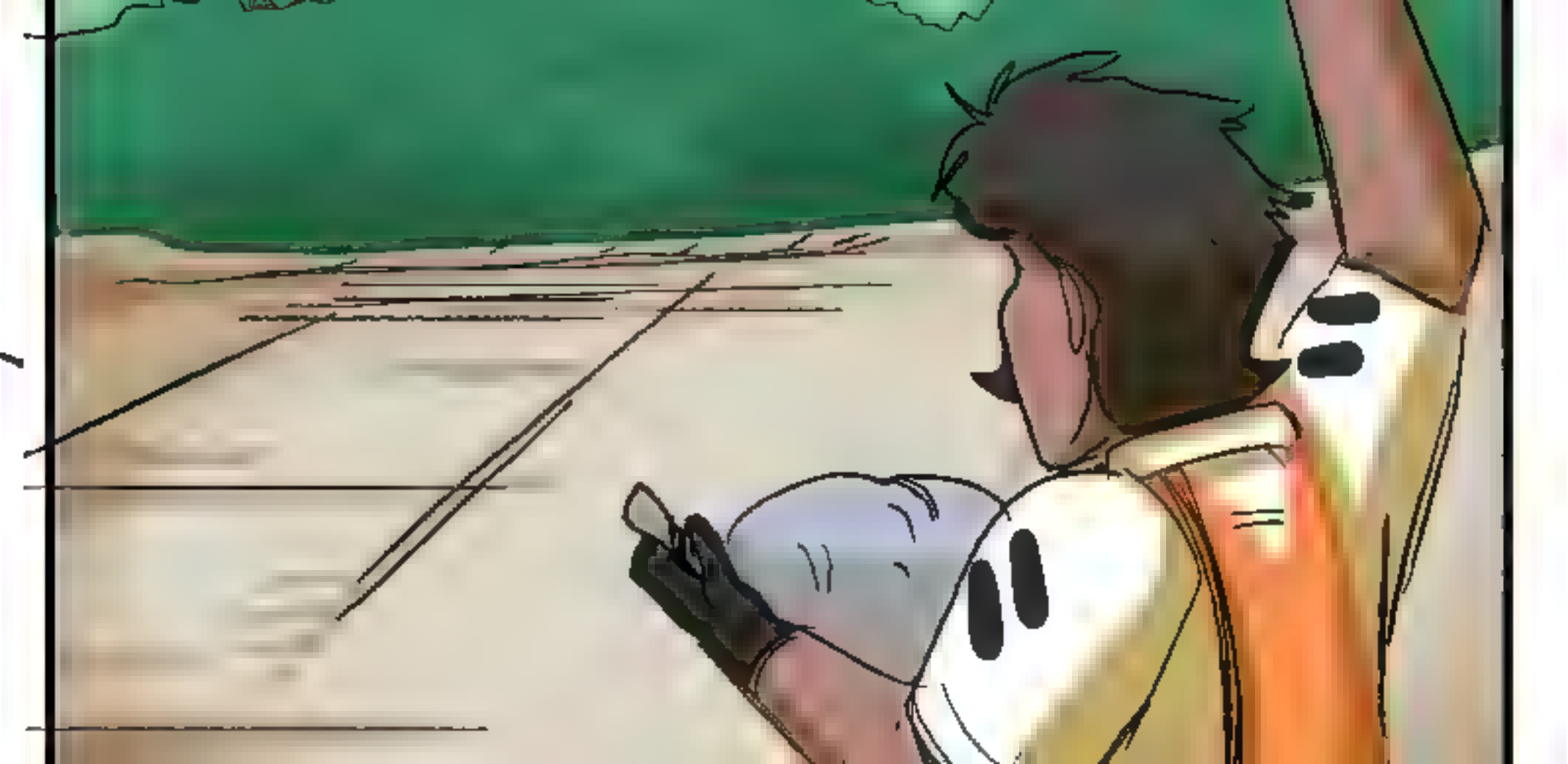


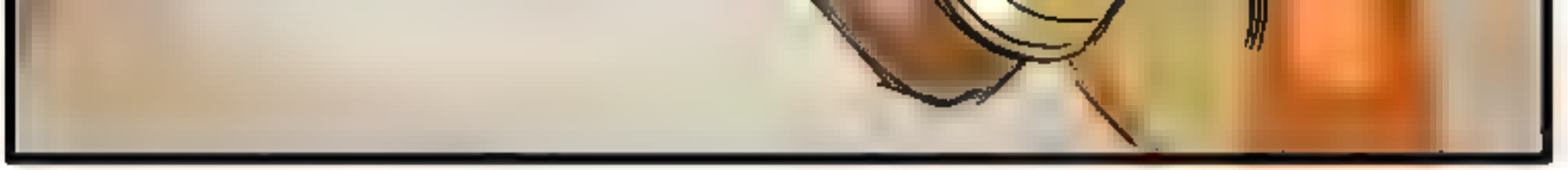
I KNOW THIS GARDEN.

WE'RE OUTSIDE OF THE VSC HQ...BUT IT LOOKS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT...

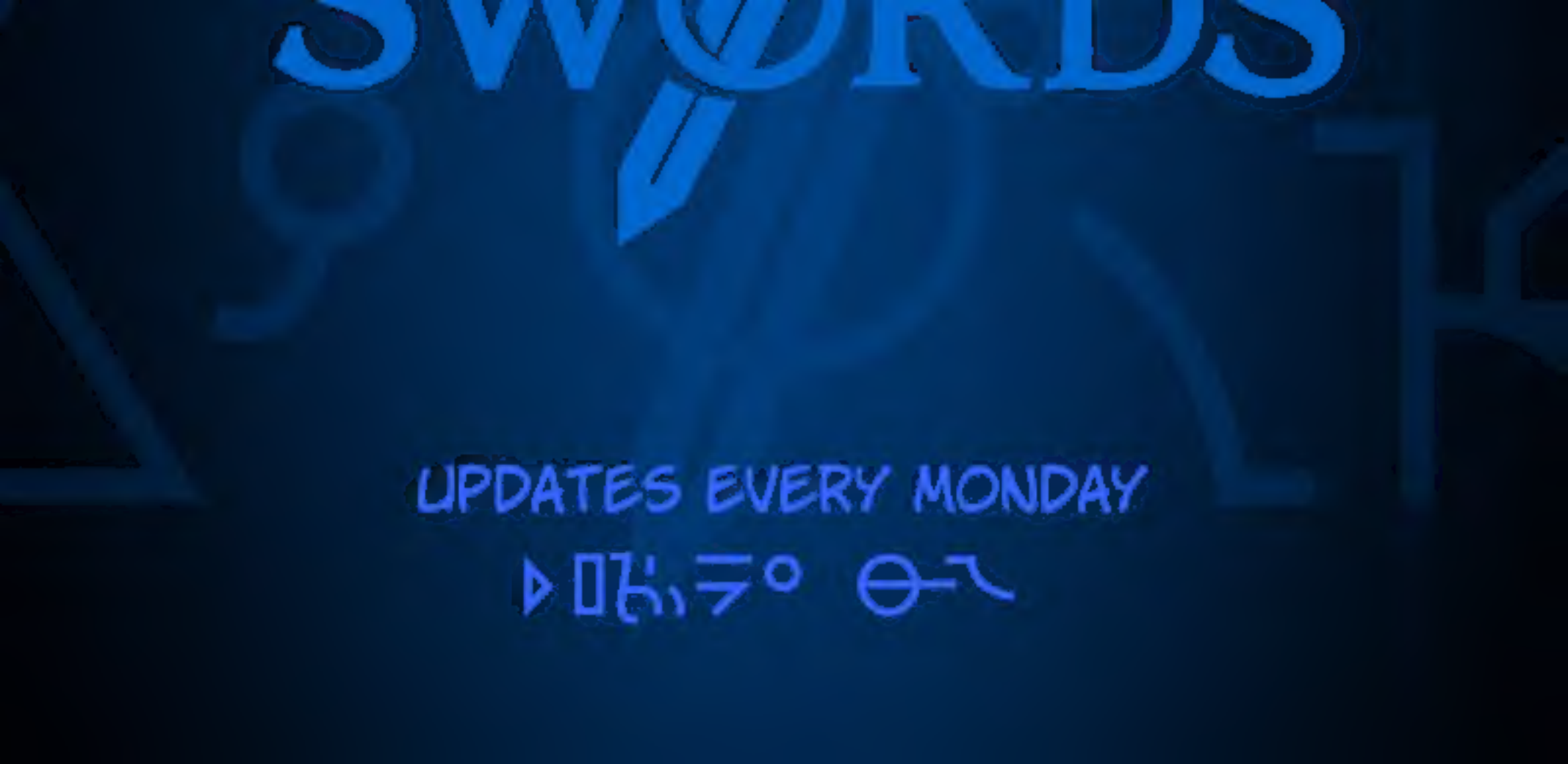


OYE
IRO! AMIGO
MIO!





ROOM of
SWORDS


SWORDS
UPDATES EVERY MONDAY

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color assitants:
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